Celebrating Angola’s Independence

- Downstream Angola’s Refining Projects
- MSTELCOM Sonangol’s Telecoms Success
- Sports Angola’s First Cycling Tour
SENSE OF INDEPENDENCE

Angola held its very first international cycle tour in October as part of the commemorations marking 40 years of independence. The cyclists raced along 1,177km of good roads and crossed nine of the most populous provinces from Bié to Benguela, Malange and Uíge before arriving in Luanda. The open road has long been a popular metaphor for freedom, and the bicycle, which can go almost everywhere and relies only on the rider’s energy, is a symbol of personal independence.

Angola’s road to independence wasn’t smooth, many sacrifices were made in life, resources and basic infrastructure. The most satisfying date after the ending of colonial rule in Angola was April 2002 which saw the signing of the peace agreement. Since then the country has boomed and invested massively in reconstructing its roads, bridges, railways, ports and airports.

The value of the cycle tour lies in the fact that has permitted Angola to showcase its economic recovery and tourist potential, demonstrating that the nation is now at peace and the infrastructure is in place to allow the free movement of people and goods throughout its territory. The roads in independent Angola now ensure a much smoother running economy.

John Kolodziejski
Editor
Sonangol and Eni get closer

Sonangol’s chairman, Francisco de Lemos José Maria, and Eni’s CEO, Claudio Descalzi, agreed to strengthen the operational and strategic partnership between the two companies at a meeting in Rome on November 4. They confirmed their commitment to using gas extracted by Eni in Angola to provide energy for the domestic market. The partners will jointly evaluate the development of gas fields in the Angolan basin of the Lower Congo and propose to use the gas locally to generate as much as 1.5GW. Additionally, Eni will support Sonangol in the development of the multi-billion dollar Lobito refinery project.

Sonangol gives best conference paper

A member of Sonangol E.P.’s production department, Jacob Cruz, received a prize during the recent Deep Offshore Technology (DOT) conference held in Texas. The award was in recognition of the quality of his paper on monitoring riser systems in Angola. Risers are the pipes or flow lines which transport oil and gas from wells on the ocean floor to platforms or vessels on the surface. Cruz’s article was considered the best at DOT 2015 and was produced as part of a study on the riser system undertaken by the Angola Deepwater Consortium, a partnership between Sonangol E.P. and Doris Engineering.

MOZAMBIQUE LEADER TOURS REFINERY

President Filipe Nyusi of Mozambique visited Luanda’s Sonarel refinery on November 9 during his two-day visit to Angola. Staff showed the president the control room, production units, the laboratory and the combined cycle power plant. Sonangol’s delegate administrator at the refinery, Custódio Gonçalves, said output would rise from its current processing capacity of 55,000 barrels per day (bpd) to 65,000 bpd by the second half of 2016.

A NEW MODEL FOR ANGOLA’S OIL SECTOR

President José Eduardo dos Santos ordered the setting up of a commission to draw up an integrated strategy and to propose new organisational models for Angola’s oil sector on October 23. The aim behind the move is to increase the efficiency of the industry. According to a statement from the president’s cabinet office, the commission will consist of ministers of state and the head of the cabinet office. Ministries included will be those of Planning and Territorial Development, Finance, Economy and Petroleum as well as the National Bank, a representative of Sonangol E.P. and two independent consultants.

The committee is tasked with preparing a diagnostic study of the oil sector’s situation as well as developing organisational models, identifying operational opportunities and quantifying potential improvements to Sonangol E.P. to find the best way forward for the national oil and gas industry.

During a state-of-the-nation speech to the National Assembly on behalf of President dos Santos on October 16, Vice President Manuel Vicente, Sonangol’s former chairman, said that oil production’s share of GDP fell to just 35 per cent in 2014 from 58 per cent in 2008, owing to the doubling between 2008 and 2014 of the non-oil GDP rate. Forecasts for this year point to GDP growth of 4 per cent, with the oil sector rising by 7.8 per cent.
Block 17 pumps up the volume

Sonangol and Total E&P Angola announced the start of an innovative project to raise oil production in Block 17 on October 30. The use of new deepwater multiphase high-pressure pumps (MPPs) will add 30,000 barrels of oil per day to output from the Rosa oil field. The pumps are located on the seabed and connect to the existing underwater network of wells and pipelines.

The pumps will allow recovery of about 42 million barrels of additional reserves, Sonangol said.

The extra pumping capacity is part of the wider Girassol Resources project, initiated in 2010, which aims to recover more oil from mature fields. The wells in question in 2010, which aims to recover more oil from mature fields. The wells in question

The project technology is a world first and includes the installation of an electrical cable linking two FPSOs, Girassol and Dula, in order to power the new pumps.

Block 17, involving four FPSOs, is one of Total’s most important operations and reached an impressive 2 billion barrels of accumulated production in April this year.

Mozambican author nets Sonangol prize

Mozambique’s Sulaimane Cassamo Abdulumane has won the 2016 Sonangol Grand Prize for literature with his book The Mbona Letter. Abdulumane works under the pseudonym Penicuaku Sasa. The award was made in Luanda by the Union of Angolan Writers (UEA) which praised the quality of the book’s subject, its educational value and the rhythm of its sublime prose, as well as its creative power and originality.

The prize jury also gave an honourable mention to The Dance in the Rain by Angola’s Frapeta de Morais, who writes under the name of Soma Yinene.

Antonio Fernandes da Costa from Angola’s Ministry of Culture presided over the jury, which comprised Cornelio Calley, representing Sonangol, the sponsor; Manuel Muanza from the UEA; Carlos Paradona (Mozambique); Fátima Fernandes (Cape Verde); Francisco Conduto de Pinha (Guiné-Bissau) and Frederico Gustavo dos Anjos (São Tomé e Príncipe).

There will be a presentation ceremony on February 25, 2016, when Sonangol commemorates its 40th anniversary.

Angolan eurobonds for sale

Angola announced the launch of sovereign debt bonds on the international market in the form of eurobonds worth $1.5 billion in October. The move is part of the government’s long-term economic and financial development programme. With this bond issue on the London Stock Exchange, the government aims to diversify the country’s funding sources and building up enduring relationships with international investors in all major financial centres.

The bonds may also help increase the inflow of foreign capital and build Angola’s international reserves. The sale is the fruit of efforts begun in 2011 to enter this market. The government took technical and legal advice for the initiative from financial institutions such as Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Goldman Sachs, International, Deutsche Bank and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) will act as agents for the bond issue.

VP attends India–Africa summit

Vice President Manuel Vicente, representing President dos Santos, led the Angolan delegation to the Third India–Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi on October 29.

The team at the four-day summit comprised foreign affairs minister, Georges Chikoti, agriculture minister, Afonso Pedro Canga; energy and waters minister, João Baptista Borges; and the minister for telecommunications and information technologies, José Carvalho da Rocha.

India is one of the main investors in African countries, covering areas such as oil, gas, the petrochemical industry, information technology, infrastructure, agriculture and health. It has made particularly significant progress in farming, industry and technology and is one of the world’s 10 largest exporters of agricultural produce.

Over the past four years, the Asian powerhouse has invested $7.4 billion in 137 development projects in 41 African countries.

Chevron registers 5 billion barrels

Cabinda Gulf Oil Company, a Chevron subsidiary recorded the drilling of its 5 billionth barrel of oil from Blocks Zero and 14 in Angola in August, to having operated in the country for 60 years. Managing director John Baltz said that despite the fall in international oil prices, Chevron is maintaining its production efficiency levels, and in the long period it has been in Angola, it has been able to deal with times of crisis.

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President Neto’s life in pictures

- The Angolan embassy in London held a photographic exhibition in September to commemorate the life and work of Angola’s first president, Agostinho Neto. The 253 photographs on display showed various facets of Angola’s first president’s life as a politician, doctor, statesman and man of culture.

In a statement, the embassy said: “Thirty-six years after his death, the teachings of António Agostinho Neto remain alive in the memory and everyday practice of the continuers of his immaterial works, particularly his successor, President José Eduardo dos Santos, ‘the Architect of Peace’ and the principal builder of the country’s development.”

The statement went on to say that the executive aims to make Angola grow even more and continue to distribute income better, and to engage in a wide-ranging dialogue with the young, with women in the countryside and with the country’s active forces, showing that Neto’s legacy is an aspiration already deeply rooted in Angolans’ collective memory and one that the nation is achieving gradually and consciously.

BOTSWANA’S FIRST STATE VISIT

- Botswana made its first state visit to Angola in October. President Seretse Khama Ian Khama said his two-day trip came at the right time, noting that, though the two countries are neighbours, they had no cooperation agreements in the areas of trade, agriculture and tourism.

However, the southern African nation has been selling beef and livestock vaccines to Angola, and there have been discussions regarding the development of the Okavango wildlife park on their shared border.

President Khama said Angola was interested in Botswana’s farming expertise, beef production and veterinary services, while in turn, his country would be interested in a partnership in Angola’s developing oil refining projects.

ANGOLAN INVENTORS WIN GOLD

- Angolan inventors won two gold medals at the 67th International Fair of Ideas, Inventions and New Products (IENA) held in Nuremberg, Germany, in October.

The first gold went to Lueji A’Nkonde of Luanda’s Faculty of Medicine for his work on protection against snakebites in rural populations and preventive measures in urban areas.

António Manuel Kawele picked up his gold for the recycling of waste materials into works of art such as handbags, slippers, necklaces and bracelets.

Altogether 10 Angolan entrants presented 19 projects at the fair, including an apparatus to avoid oil spills at sea devised by Ricardo Antunes Figueiredo.

There were 10 medals awarded to the Angolans: two gold, three silver and five bronze. Gabriel Luís Miguel, the director of the National Technological Centre (CTN), led the country’s delegation.

BLOCK PROPOSALS ON THE TABLE

- Sonangol opened proposals to prospect for oil and gas in 10 onshore blocks on October 2. Examination of the proposals for the blocks in the Kwanza and Lower Congo basins will take place and then Sonangol will award concessions, the company said.

There are seven blocks in the Kwanza Basin and a further three in the Lower Congo Basin, and together they could account for over half of all known reserves in Angola at around 7 billion barrels.

Among the 38 oil companies prequalified in this bidding process, begun in April last year, were operators including Italy’s Eni, US major Chevron, Colombia’s Ecopetrol and Portugal’s Galp Energia and Partex. In the running as non-operators (minority contractors in groups to be established in each block), Sonangol selected 47 companies as prequalified, although it is not known which of these did in fact put forward final proposals.

Exponential success at Milan

- Angola’s pavilion at the international exhibition Expo Milano 2015 attracted a record 2 million visitors during its 184-day run which ended on October 31. The country was awarded the fair’s silver medal for its display ‘Food and Culture: Education for Innovation’.

The pavilion showcased Angola’s rich culinary tradition and its tourism potential. Albina Assis, general commissioner of the country’s delegation, said the award demonstrated the wide international interest expressed in knowing more about Angolan traditions and culture.

National Day was celebrated at the Expo on September 17 and several cultural and political activities took place, which were graced by the presence of Vice President Manuel Vicente.
Angola currently imports around 80 per cent of its fuel needs, but this situation is set to end thanks to the construction of two new refineries. Universo donned its hard hat and went on-site to find out.
Lobito is a larger refinery than Soyo, capable of processing 200,000 bpd of crude

Angola spends around $5 billion a year on imports of refined oil products and currently processes just one-fifth of its requirements. In order to reduce imports and achieve self-sufficiency, the government has embarked on building two new refineries on greenfield sites.

The country currently has just one operational refinery - Sonangol Refinaria de Luanda (Sonarel) on the northern outskirts of the capital - which has processing capacity of around 57,000 barrels per day (bpd) of crude.

The refining industry gained new momentum in June with the start of work on a second facility at Soyo, Zaire province, near the Congo estuary. The Soyo refinery will have the capacity to process 110,000 bpd of oil when it starts operations in 2017.

A refined products will include 853,400 tonnes per year of diesel, 558,500 tonnes of petrol, 180,000 tonnes of kerosene, 44,500 tonnes of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and 20,700 tonnes of benzene.

This extensive installation comprises a processing unit, crude oil storage tanks and a transportation area, as well as a pier to moor two tankers, each with capacity to carry up to 100,000 tonnes of crude. There will also be a power plant, a residential area for a thousand employees, and water and wastewater treatment facilities.

The construction site is at Kifuquena, 5km southwest of Soyo. Building work is being undertaken by China Tianchen Engineering Corp. and is expected to last 26 months.

In a speech marking the laying of the first stone at Soyo, Sonangol CEO Francisco de Lemos José Maria said construction of the refinery was part of the executive programme aimed at diversifying production, reducing fuel imports and stimulating other industries such as petrochemicals and possibly plastics later on.

In turn, the chairman of the China International Fund, You Hao Ming, noted that the project was a capital gain for the province in particular and the country in general.

“We are building a modern refinery with very sophisticated equipment and rigorous environmental criteria,” he added.

Lobito project
Soyo is Angola’s second new oil processing project following in the wake of the Lobito Sonaref refinery in Benguela province, where construction work began in 2012. Sonaref (Sonangol Refinacao) is Sonangol’s oil refining subsidiary.
What does the Lobito project mean for Angola?
The project is of outstanding importance for Sonangol and for Angola. It’s strategic and considered a mega-project because of the volume of investments, because of its technological complexity and for its economic and social impact on the country and on the province of Benguela in particular. As we know, Angola’s economy has grown vertiginously in recent years, as have its industry and vehicle fleets.

The only refinery we have, located in Luanda, doesn’t cover domestic market consumption.

Following the orientation of the Angolan executive’s National Development Plan, the government mandated Sonangol – through Sonaref – to implement this structural project, which aims to reduce dependence and add value to Angolan crudes, transforming them into high-value commercial fuels.

This refinery was designed to process 200,000 bpd and will supply the country’s needs by producing high-quality commercial fuels, namely LPG, petrol, Jet 1, kerosene and diesel. It will be a highly complex, efficient and modern refinery.

Implementation of the project will increase domestic supply and strengthen Sonangol’s logistics chain in refining and fuel sales, as well as sales of other oil products for the home market and for the region. The projected production capacity at the Lobito refinery, added to current production at the Luanda refinery, will allow us to satisfy a significant part of domestic market demand. In this crucial phase of Angola’s development, diversification of the economy is the order of the day, and the processing of the raw material, which is Angolan crude, will support the country’s industrialisation and contribute to greater revenue collection for the state budget.

What will be the next step?
Once US company KBR completes the studies of the refinery’s configuration, then Sonangol and Engineers India Limited (EIL) will carry out the final revision process to adapt to the characteristics of the new types of crude oil discovered in Angola. Then Sonangol will contract a company to build the refinery, which will comprise processing units, utilities, storage and systems of importing and exporting products at the sea terminal.

At the same time we will start the second package of works that will allow us to accelerate the future mobilisation of the refinery. This package will include:

- Camps for the company staff and contractors
- Administrative and support buildings
- Tanks for the temporary import of refined products
- Support structures for importing and dispatching
- Utilities

At what stage is the work on the Lobito refinery?
Work began in January 2012, and is related to supporting the infrastructure for building the refinery itself, namely:

- The oil terminal, which Sonangol will use to unload the material and heavy equipment during the refinery’s construction phase and later for the dispatching of fuel
- The special highway prepared to support and transport extremely heavy and large equipment
- The service road for the pipelines between the refinery and the oil terminal
- Terracing, where the refinery will be erected

The level of execution of the above is around 95 per cent. Work has proceeded satisfactorily, using best practice in engineering, safety, environment and quality as well as meeting schedules.
The Lobito project will increase domestic fuel supplies and strengthen Sonangol’s logistic chain – João Ramos

Will the refinery produce petrochemicals in the future?
Sonangol is the only investor in the project at the moment and is represented by its subsidiaries Sonaref, through SIP (Sonaref Investimentos e Participações) with 51 per cent, Sonangol Dás Natural with 39 per cent and Sonangol Holdings with 10 per cent. On the other hand, the search for investors wishing to become partners to develop the Lobito refinery is of particular importance, in the sense that it will reduce Sonangol’s financial burden and contribute with technological and commercial know-how. In this respect, efforts continue to attract potential partners.

Is the electricity transmission line from Cambambe to Lobito already operational?
As part of building the refinery, Sonangol has recruited and trained dozens of engineers and technicians that will work on the project. Other specialists will be trained to be part of project teams, to accompany the work, raise technical capacity and in future be part of the refinery operating staff.

Which companies are involved in developing the Lobito project?
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The Luanda refinery

Luanda refinery is the only one in operation in Angola at present. It processes an average of 52,000 barrels of oil using the Palanca and Plutónio grades. They satisfy around 20 per cent of Angola’s fuel needs. The first refinery installations were inaugurated in May 1958 on a 170-hectare site 14km north of Luanda city centre. The facility has since been enveloped by the capital’s huge conurbation. The Luanda refinery is the only one in operation in Angola at present. It processes an average of 52,000 barrels of oil using the Palanca and Plutónio grades. They satisfy around 20 per cent of Angola’s fuel needs. The first refinery installations were inaugurated in May 1958 on a 170-hectare site 14km north of Luanda city centre. The facility has since been enveloped by the capital’s huge conurbation. The facility has since been enveloped by the capital’s huge conurbation.

In June 1999, oil company Total acquired a stake in the refinery, which it managed jointly with Fina Petróleos de Angola (Total Fina Consortium). In February 2000, It took a stakeholding and joined the refining business in partnership with Total and Fina to form TotalFinaElf. A few years later, in May 2003, Total bought all the shares of the other companies and began to manage the business as sole owner of the refinery.

On July 1, Sonangol’s refining arm Sonaref, celebrated six years since its foundation. As part of the Sonangol group, it builds and operates refineries, maintains its installations and prepares, processes and sells oil products. It also has shares in refining companies at home and abroad. Sonaref Corporation has two subsidiaries: Sonarel, which oversees the Luanda refinery, and SIP, its investment vehicle.

Quality performance
As with all Sonangol operations, Sonarel is constantly improving staff performance in processes and in equipment maintenance. This makes it stand out as one of the leading African refineries. Sonarel holds ISO 9001:2008 certification for the quality of its products and ISO 14000:2004 for its environmental protection measures. It also boasts safety certificate OHSAS 18001:2007 for risk prevention.

The refinery also aims to be a good corporate citizen. It supplies water to the Petrangol suburb and supports local health centres. It has built and equipped three schools in the São Pedro da Barra district, and operates refineries, maintains its installations and prepares, processes and sells oil products. It also has shares in refining companies at home and abroad. Sonaref Corporation has two subsidiaries: Sonarel, which oversees the Luanda refinery, and SIP, its investment vehicle.
Angola benefits from having one of the most sophisticated telecommunications networks in Africa. Universo examines the key role MSTelcom plays in the sector.

The revolution brought about by information technology and modern communications in our everyday lives is one that each of us marvels at regularly. Almost gone are the days when a telephone was just a means to speak to someone. Now a diminutive handheld device can transmit voice calls, take high-definition photos, make films, send texts and access the Internet, while also monitoring your health and holding your lifelong music collection. All these functions are supported behind the scenes by a vast templex of high-speed digital infrastructure.

Sonangol’s MSTelcom subsidiary plays a discreet role in this world and is a largely unsung hero in the history and development of Angola’s telecommunications sector. “The importance of MSTelcom resides in the fact that the company acts as a partner par excellence for Sonangol E.P. and its subsidiaries in its role as a telecommunications service provider. This includes, among other segments, providing a private network for secure communications services such as data transmission, telephony, radio communications, Internet connectivity and so on,” Oldemiro Napoleão, head of the company’s marketing department, told Universo.

“Additionally, MSTelcom gives Sonangol E.P. increased value because of its focus in meeting the telecommunications needs of the Angolan oil and gas sector, contributing in this way to this sector’s growth,” he explained. He outlined the impact of AngoSat and of the West African Cable System (WACS) on the company’s operations.

“We view the commercial launch of Angola Cable back in
2009, as well as the upcoming operational launch of AngoSat, as being complementary to the wide range of telecommunications services MSTelcom already offers to the Angolan market.

“On the one hand, as a stakeholder in the Angola Cables consortium, MSTelcom has access to its own reserve of capacity, which in turn, it offers to its customers at very attractive prices. On the other hand, AngoSat and MSTelcom cater to distinct target markets, so it is our expectation that once the former’s operations come online, its impact on our company will be marginal.”

According to Napoleão, MSTelcom’s role is not restricted just to the energy sector.

“It is also one of the largest providers of satellite communications in sub-Saharan Africa in terms of contracted space segment. It has clients such as both licensed mobile operators in Angola (Unitel and Movicel), as well as several Angolan government ministerial bodies. It also has its very own national optical transmission network (OTN), while its metropolitan networks account for a significant share of its investments in recent years.

“Two recent examples serve to highlight MSTelcom’s role as a strategic partner to the government of Angola, and not merely as the telecommunications provider of choice in Angola: the company was awarded two separate contracts to provide national satellite and Internet connectivity to the Ministries of Defence and of Finance, which in turn enable these government departments to provide better services to ordinary citizens and communities.

‘The world has moved from huge mobile phone sets to small ones that do everything. Similarly, MSTelcom has grown and adapted its capabilities and core competencies as a means to keep up with technological developments and trends’

– Mário Oliveira, executive member of MSTelcom’s board of directors

Mário Oliveira, executive member of MSTelcom’s board of directors

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**Communications**

Let your fingers do the talking

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**MSTELCOM TIMELINE**

- **1996**
  First established as a telecommunications provider for Sonangol group

- **1999**
  Began its commercial activities and provision of services to the Angolan market in general

- **2003**
  Receives a license from the Angolan Institute of Communications (INACOM) to act as fixed line telecommunications services operator in Angola

- **2005**
  Acquires and merges with Nexus Telecomunicações e Serviços, SA

- **2006**
  Acquires Angola Comunicações & Sistemas (ACS) as an autonomous business unit to serve the corporate market segment

- **2009**
  Establishes Net One Telecomunicações (Net One), SA as business unit to serve the small office/home office (SOHO) and residential market segment

- **2013**
  Co-founds the Angola Cables and West Africa Cable System (WACS) consortia, the wholesale telecoms companies which supply and manage international transmission capacity to telecoms operators on Africa’s West coast
"The key to achieving both contracts can be attributed to the company’s highly qualified and mainly Angolan staff, as well as the accumulated expertise and core competencies gained providing complex solutions for the oil and gas sector companies for the past 19 years," he explained.

Mário Oliveira is an executive member of the company’s board of directors.

"As a group of companies, our aim is to be the preferred telecoms provider in the oil and gas, business-to-business (particularly the banking sector,) and the government sectors. We provide telecommunications for mobile operators, and we’re the leaders in the oil and gas sector in-country. We offer a wide range of products for different telecoms service segments such as radio, fibre optic and satellite communications," he stated.

"MSTelcom has grown a lot in 19 years. We started with around 15 staff and now there are over 300. We’re one of the best in some telecoms segments such as data transmission."

According to Oliveira, the company plans to contract more staff to accompany its current growth because, in spite of the current economic constraints, the telecommunications sector continues to develop and needs to focus on job training.

"This is a young company with very good engineers, technicians and dedicated staff. There are many career opportunities here for the young and the willing," Oliveira said.

He cited the example of the car-washer, Estêvão Cahassa (see sidebar, p. 25), who he met years ago working at the company gates. The company took Cahassa on as an employee, and he has had a successful career.

"Morale at MSTelcom is high, possibly because telecoms by its nature requires its practitioners to be open to new ideas and complex challenges, as well as continually developing innovative ways of doing things. This includes taking on quality, health, safety and the environment (QHSE) is an integral part of many modern businesses, but rarely is this obvious to the casual observer. MSTelcom is different. Its offices offer a great example of how to create an excellent, high-quality working environment.

Located behind the large industrial expanse of Sonangol’s Luanda refinery (Sonarel), the company’s array of masts, satellite dishes and offices nest in a green, wooded oasis, which contrasts sharply with the surrounding sandy unsurfaced roads and grey walls of sprawling factories and suburbs.

There are few trees in the 14 km stretch that separate MSTelcom from Luanda’s downtown. Unprompted, several staff members told Universo how much they looked forward to coming to their workplace, despite its long and difficult road access. The site resembles a university campus park with a series of lightly-coloured, sometimes modernist, sometimes rustic-looking buildings. Some of the office interiors echo the simplicity and light of Japanese homes. All the installations are overshadowed by mature mango trees and separated by lawns, paths and well-stocked ornamental fishponds. The visitor is greeted by the cries of many birds in a city where they are rarely heard.

Filomena Cardoso Andrade runs MSTelcom’s QHSE management, and it becomes immediately clear that the drive for a high-quality working environment is something she embraces wholeheartedly.

She explained that MSTelcom carries out a survey each year to measure staff satisfaction as part of its quality and environment policy. Along with the greenery and the pleasant luminosity of the offices, an on-site gymnasium aids staff in healthy living, and the company encourages them to interact with the environment by planting trees.

Andrade qualified as a telecommunications engineer in Cuba in 1983, and her long experience in this field has served her well. Quality in a telecoms company is not merely about a product, it’s also about services, and quality applies to every aspect of providing services, including management systems. It’s also about transparency, she explained.

As a result of the company’s understanding of this cardinal principal, MSTelcom gained ISO:9001 certification in 2010, making it one of the very few Angolan telecommunications companies to be ISO certified.
Estêvão Cahassa was born in Ingombota, Luanda, in 1985 and earned a meagre living as a car-washer near MSTelcom’s head offices. He joined the company in 2000, initially as a fitter’s mate. He then welded transmission tower bases before moving on to general maintenance of buildings, generators, plumbing networks and so on for MSTelcom’s infrastructure department in 2007. Cahassa said he considered MSTelcom to be his school, a faculty as such. He then considered formal study, having left basic education at 15. In 2006, he returned to school, despite facing great difficulties in travelling to reach it across the city of Luanda. Encouraged by a veteran engineer and the company’s former infrastructure manager, Jorge Ramalheira, who recognised Cahassa’s motivation, he entered the faculty of mechanics and later transferred to study telecommunications in Luanda.

Cahassa has since worked with both VSAT and microwave transmission systems, again much encouraged by experienced and senior MSTelcom engineers such as Edgar Martins, managing director of ACS, and Cesarina Teixeira, managing director of MSTelcom’s oil and gas business unit. He is now a telecommunications assistant working at the terrestrial transmissions department.

**Data centres**

MSTelcom has invested in two data centre projects to manage and provide backup for its clients. The main one will be the ASA Data Centre (named after MSTelcom’s late CEO, Alberto Serafim Araújo), the second largest of its type in Africa. Work began at ASA, located at Zango in the outskirts of Luanda, in 2013 and it is expected to be fully functioning by 2017. It serves as a kind of highly-protected and sophisticated virtual storage center for the company’s and its clients’ data, which may be securely held and accessed in the event of a disaster recovery scenario, for example.

From 2016, we will have the capacity to serve a large part of our clients in Angola and potentially beyond. Companies ask us to back up and store their sensitive data at our advanced data center facilities. If by chance a company loses its database, then it will be able to recover the lost information in optimal time,” explained Olga Xavier, MSTelcom’s corporate communications manager. The ASA data center also ensures that there is no leaking of confidential information, as it meets the highest international standards of security.

The ASA data center site will accommodate four main office buildings for MSTelcom staff, a building housing the site’s data centre with two adjacent buildings (housing both the power and air conditioning systems, respectively), two smaller support buildings, and an underground access and technical gallery covering the entire area of the site.

MSTelcom also recently completed work on a smaller modular data centre in the Viana/Bengo Special Economic Zone, designed initially to serve clients in that industrial region. This facility stores the data and uses a belt-and-braces approach to its maintenance in optimum conditions. It has emergency generators for its operation and refrigeration, and these are also backed up by adequate UPS banks in the highly unlikely event of a simultaneous failure of the public power grid and the three high-capacity diesel generators. Because the spacious Viana/Bengo data centre is designed on a modular basis, the company can expand it as future orders present themselves, adding modules to accommodate its clients’ growth.
ANABELA FONSECA: WORKING FOR ANGOLA

Sonangol board member Engineer Anabela Fonseca talks to Universo about her illustrious career within the company.

Sonangol board member Engineer Anabela Fonseca talks to Universo about her illustrious career within the company.

A nabela Fonseca has been a Sonangol executive administrator for more than five years and has been with the company since January 1996. Her original career choice was medicine, but life took a different direction and she became a chemical engineer.

"I was a bit too restless to stay still in an office, so I wanted a profession that would get me into the open air, and engineering was one of those professions."

Ironically, she has now ended up in an office, though of course at the highest level.

Traditionally the oil sector has been dominated by men. Why did you choose a career in this industry?

I didn’t choose a career in the oil industry specifically. I was born in Bié and came to Luanda to study. In my second year at university, I started looking for work, and I happened to get a job in the Ministry of Petroleum and began as a student intern. At the time I chose engineering, without a thought for the oil industry. With my degree I could have gone into industry, or energy; there were a range of sectors that would employ a chemical engineer. So the oil sector was mere chance. I went into the Ministry of Petroleum while still a student, and I’ve been in the oil industry ever since.

How would you describe your career within the company?

It’s a career that’s had some good moments, such as when a person works on a specific project, on a certain problem and finds a solution to that problem. That’s a good moment. There are many challenges, and at times it’s frustrating, but I would say that it’s
a career involving lots of learning – learning the subjects in which I’m involved, but learning also how to deal with and relate to people. I learnt how to understand people. I’ve been disappointed with some, had pleasant surprises with others.

What tasks do you most like to do?
I went into the area of foreign trade. In the petroleum ministry, I used to work in the refining area, and then came to Sonangol’s commercial area, and I worked for some time as a specialist in market policy analysis in the Sales Board Department. After that I was made head of the market policy department. There was a restructuring and the Foreign Sales Board became the Office of Sales Operations and so I became director of this office. And then I left the board of the office for the Sonangol board.

The role that I most liked to perform was as a specialist in market policy analysis, because you work in what you like, have all the freedom to do something and aren’t assessed all the time by everyone else. We are assessed by our bosses, even by our colleagues, but also we’ve assessed by all the other workers. In market policy analysis, this doesn’t happen. It’s a very active area. Because you have to make things happen, the loading is done, the cargo has to be sold, and at the best price. So, it’s a continuous process, and this makes the activity quite dynamic and very pleasurable.

What positions have you found the most challenging?
Being an administrator, without doubt. I came to the Sonangol board after about six years of management. I spent three years or so as head of a department which had fewer than 10 people. After that I became director, and there were no more than 40. And afterwards, it isn’t easy for whoever leaves this world without having all the experience that is needed and goes to a position in Sonangol’s administration, in a company of that size. At that time I was co-ordinator of the commercial area. It was one of those areas of my responsibility, but I don’t remember well which were the other areas.

But we left that restricted world and moved into a much wider environment, where I didn’t manage to master all the subjects. I had some insecurities and uncertainties. So that was a very big challenge. I’ve done my best, I’ve been dedicated and tried to do it diligently. Have I succeeded? If I were to say that I’m satisfied, I would be lying.

Things happen, and when we look at Sonangol, there are many things that people criticise if it ends up not being so perfect. But if we look positively, we can see the good, beautiful and great things that happen at Sonangol. We’ve moved from the old building to this new one, we’ve gone from 400,000–500,000 barrels of crude production to 1.8 million and could even reach 2 million.

We acquired 10 Suezmax ships and three LNG ships. We’ve improved the infrastructure in our installations outside Angola, many that aren’t yet fully operational, but we have others that work. We have contributed to training in this country and we have trained scholarship holders who can perform roles in any sector. Looking at these feats, I say, yes, I had a small part in this, so it is gratifying. Are there some things that aren’t well done? There are! Are there dissatisfied workers? Probably! It’s impossible to please everyone, but all this makes us think that it was worth it. Yes, I think it was worthwhile.

How do you see the two new refinery projects in Angola?
I would say that it’s a very difficult business, but it brings many benefits to the country. It creates jobs, makes other businesses develop, other services, because it isn’t refining alone, it’s everything that goes along with refining. It’s the small gardening business, the small cleaning business, the catering company, even the large maintenance companies. They can provide services to a refinery and thus develop the region where it is, wherever it’s situated.

Workers improve their income, and through their improved income they help to develop businesses on the side. They buy more, spend more, go more often to the cinema, eat out more because their income is higher. This creates development and in this respect it’s good. The government gets more taxes and, most importantly, stops being dependent on fuel supplies from abroad. Angola has the raw materials and will get products which will supply the market and so become independent.

It brings technology to the country, it brings employment, brings development and creates independence.

Nowadays you are the administrator responsible for international assets and investments. Under your supervision are very important group subsidiaries such as Sonja, SonAir, Sonils and Sonaci. How do you divide your time to be able to respond to all these different enterprises? I dedicate to each enterprise the time it requires at that moment. I don’t divide the time: for example, two hours for this one and an hour for another. The one that asks me for more time in a certain week or day, it’s to them I will give more time.
Persistence, honesty, performance and dedication. I think these are values a woman must uphold in her career – Engineer Anabela Fonseca

Which of your responsibilities require more time and dedication?
At this particular moment it’s SonAir. Sonaci also requires a little more time, because it’s a relatively new subsidiary. We are still adjusting our structures, procedures and norms. We’re working on the business model; we had arrived at one, but it seemed to us not to work very well, and we’re now going to initiate a new business analysis.

The Department of Quality, Safety and Environment (QSE) which is under the command of Daniela Matos, is also your responsibility. How do you see the evolution of QSE, which is vital for every oil company, at Sonangol?
It’s as you said. It’s vital, it has a long road to run. That doesn’t mean we aren’t doing anything, we’ve taken some steps regarding QSE, but still many things need to be done, and the greatest challenge is to work with people’s mental approach. Our mentality for things need to be done, and the greatest challenge regarding QSE, but still many aren’t doing anything; we’ve taken some steps, but still many things need to be done. And quality certification is exactly that. It’s us organising ourselves by process, it’s us working within the norms, which are the processes, but we always think that paying attention to this is a waste of time, because I have to unload that ship, I have to sell that cargo, I have to write that memo, so all this is more important than any question of QSE. And we don’t give it much importance. The greatest challenge of management is exactly that. It’s us achieving this with all the company, from top to bottom: think and breathe quality, safety and environment. We have to think that with quality our task is easier, we develop everything more easily, we lose less time. With safety we don’t run risks, we don’t put at risk the lives of other people, we don’t risk the security of our archives. And with environmental safety, we don’t pollute and do preserve nature, which belongs to all of us.

Where do you think Sonangol still has to improve?
In terms of quality, everything. We’ve done a simulation, we’ve already done two, and it’s always a struggle for people to do them. They don’t want to get down to it, they question why they have to do it, because it’s a waste of time, because it’s going to delay their work, but this is our work. When we arrive at a company, we have to see if it has mapped out processes, because only that way can we have ISO 90001 quality certification. People complain that they have this and that to do. It’s one challenge after another. We have to practically beg people to do it.

There are two female executive administrators at Sonangol. As a woman, have you ever had any obstacles in your professional life?
No. Anyone who says don’t do that because you’re a woman, or I’ve been put to one side for being a woman, no. The fact that I am on the board is proof of this. I was for years the only woman there, and I heard many times my colleagues talking among men and saying, ‘Anabela is now also a man’. ‘But, apart from this, which makes it more difficult for me? But on the Sonangol board, I never felt that. I know that because, to us, when they ask something, we’re going to do it. Men I think have an easier life: they get home and everything is done for them, their clothes might be chosen for the next day. For the woman, that’s not the case: she arrives and probably has to look after the children, she has to take care of the house, she takes care of the husband.

How would you define your mission in life?
To work and contribute so that Angola is a good place to live.

Downtime
When not working, Fonseca likes to watch a good film with a bowl of popcorn. She also likes to play games on her iPad and look after a good film with a glass of chilled champagne. She particularly likes Angolan musical artists such as Paulo Flores, Matias Damiano, Jacinto Tshipa, Carlos Burity and Bangão. 

INTERVIEW
José Quarenta

INTERVIEW
Chevron Overseas (Congo) Limited started oil and gas production from the Lianzi field, 105km off the coasts of the Republic of Congo and Angola. The field is jointly controlled by both countries, and production began on schedule in early November.

Located in a water depth of 900 metres, Lianzi is Chevron’s first operated asset in the Republic of Congo and the first cross-border oil project in the Central African region. Output is expected to average 40,000 barrels of crude oil per day.

The project consists of four producing wells, three water injection wells and subsea tiebacks to an existing platform in Block 14.

“This milestone demonstrates that we continue to make steady progress on delivering major development projects,” said Jay Johnson, executive vice president of Upstream, Chevron Corporation. “We have the industry’s strongest queue of major capital projects that are expected to deliver significant value and production growth.”

“As the first offshore energy development spanning national boundaries in the Central Africa region, Lianzi represents a unique co-operative approach to shared offshore resources and may serve as a model for the development of similar cross-border fields between two countries,” said Ali Moshiri, president of Chevron Africa and Latin America Exploration and Production Company.

The field, discovered in 2004, includes a subsea production system and a 43km electrically heated flowline system, the first of this kind of groundbreaking technology at this water depth. The system transports the oil from the field to the Benguela-Belize-Lobito-Tomboco (BBLT) platform in Angola’s Block 14 and uses a direct electrical heating system to ensure fluid flow under a wide range of conditions. Crude oil at depth tends to congeal and therefore needs warming in order to flow more freely.

Chevron Overseas (Congo) Limited operates the Lianzi field and has a 15.75 per cent interest, along with its affiliates Cabinda Gulf Oil (15.5 per cent), Total E&P Congo (26.75 per cent), Angola Block 14 BV (10 per cent), Ink (10 per cent), Sonangol P&A (10 per cent), SNPC (the Republic of the Congo National Oil Company – 7.5 per cent) and Galp (4.5 per cent).

Angola and its neighbour the Republic of the Congo have started production in the first ever binational oil field in Central Africa – Universo looks at the details
The first cycling Tour of Angola has been a huge success. Universo was among the spectators cheering the riders on.
Enguela-born Igor Silva, from Luanda’s Benfica club, was the overall winner of the first Tour of Angola cycle race. The competition took place on October 7–18 and covered a total of 1,177km. Six foreign nations participated: Mozambique, Cape Verde, São Tomé and Príncipe, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, France and Portugal. Silva also won the final section of the tour on a closed circuit in Luanda which preceded the awards ceremony.

The winner of the yellow jersey, who had previously won the Angolan national cycling championship, dedicated his victory to his club, to his coach, Carlos Araújo, and to all Angolans on the country’s 40th anniversary of independence.

In the overall general classification of teams, Benfica de Luanda won first place with a time of 70 hours, 8 minutes and 34 seconds. French cyclists were the foreign competitors who recorded the best performance against the Angolans.

Sonangol sponsored the cycling event as part of the celebrations commemorating Angola’s 40th anniversary of independence. The route crossed nine Angolan provinces: Bié, Huambo, Benguela, Cuanza Sul, Cuanza Norte, Malange, Uíge, Bengo and Luanda. The competition was so successful that a second edition is already being planned for October 2016.

The president of the Angolan Cycling Federation (FACI), Diógenes de Oliveira, said, “We’re thinking of continuing to organise this event in October, a period of not much heat and not very intense rain, which makes it easier to run the competition without hiccups.”

Oliveira praised the support provincial governments gave to all aspects of the competition. They created the excellent conditions of safety, accommodation and logistics as well as encouraging people to come out and cheer all the riders on. The inaugural Tour of Angola was positive at all levels, he said, despite being the country’s first experience of its type.

“We had no serious accidents, just a few small ones, which are normal in an event of this type. We had the swift help of both national and traffic services.”

One important highlight of the tour was the presence of the sole female competitor, 28-year-old Malange-born Graça Gonçalves of the David Ricardo School. Of the 85 riders spread across 12 teams, 18 pulled out along the way, some through injury, but Gonçalves completed every stage.

She called for other women to take up the sport, with the aim of increasing the numbers of females in the 2016 tour and in other cycling competitions. The athlete said she was content with her performance and enjoyed having cycled alongside many experienced male athletes from Africa and Europe. She also said the event would boost cycling in Angola, where riders had longed for such a competition. Gonçalves called for future tours of the country to take place in other provinces.

“I’m really happy to have completed the event successfully, but I would have been even happier if there had been more women in this great group,” she said. She also called for more corporate sponsorship for the sport. On arriving at the end of the fifth stage in Cuanza Norte, Gonçalves was presented with a competition bike from provincial Governor Henrique Júnior and 100,000 kwanzas from the president of Angola’s Paralympic Committee, Leonel da Rocha Pinto. The Organisation of Angolan Women (OMA) in Bengo province also gave her a diploma of merit.

She thanked her team for their help and FACI for making her participation in the event possible, and promised to be more dedicated and work harder to continue to merit their confidence in her.
police, the fire service, emergency doctors and helpful motorcyclists,” he explained.

The value of the tour has been that it has showcased Angola’s tourist potential and has demonstrated that the country is now at peace and the infrastructure is in place allowing the free movement of people throughout its territory.

According to the event’s executive director, Justinião Araújo, the tour also highlighted and promoted the expansion of this healthy sport, which requires physical fitness.

The cyclists attracted large, appreciative crowds who lined the route as they sped across the country. In the 170km Ndalatando–Malange section spectators ignored the rain to cheer on the competitors.

Araújo also praised the national and provincial governments’ efforts at making the competition possible, in some places ensuring that the road surface was in good condition and safe for all the riders.

Growing the sport
The governor of Cuanza Sul, Eusébio de Brito Teixeira, called for more young people to take up cycling so as to develop the sport in the region. He pointed out that the province was able to hold events of this scale because it had a network of quality hotels and road infrastructure ideal for the sport. For his part, the vice governor of Malange, Gabriel Pontes, drew attention to the health and well-being benefits of cycling, and said that Malange would welcome and support similar events in the future.

Tour winner Silva said that he hoped the competition would encourage cycling as a mass sport in Angola and that more people would participate in national championships.

The Angolan clubs who participated in the tour were Benfica de Luanda, Santos FC de Luanda, Jair Transportes de Benguela, Hotel Luso, Nocebo do Huambo and the Seleção de Esperanças.

Competition results
Igor Silva, aged 29, from the Benfica de Luanda club, showed he was at his best by winning 5 of the 11 stages and beating the rest of the field to claim Angola’s yellow jersey. He is the son of legendary Angolan cyclist Alberto da Silva ‘Pepino’. France provided Angola with the closest international competition of the tour, followed by Portugal and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The first three winning cyclists in the competition were awarded prizes of 350,000 kwanzas, 250,000 kwanzas and 150,000 kwanzas, respectively.

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<tr>
<th>TOP TEN RIDERS</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 Igor Silva (Benfica de Luanda, Angola)</td>
<td>1 Benfica de Luanda (Angola)</td>
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<td>2 Dário António (Benfica de Luanda, Angola)</td>
<td>2 Club de la Défense (France)</td>
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<td>3 Grzegorz Kwiatkowski (Club de la Défense, France)</td>
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<td>4 Cruz Tuto (Benfica de Luanda, Angola)</td>
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<td>5 Victor Araújo (AA D’Helvetia, Portugal)</td>
<td>5 Jair Transportes (Angola)</td>
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<td>6 Mederic Clain (Club de la Défense, France)</td>
<td>6 Seleção de Esperanças (Angola)</td>
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<td>7 Bruno Araújo (Benfica de Luanda, Angola)</td>
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<td>8 Julien Foucault (Club de la Défense, France)</td>
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<td>9 Lucas Camilo (Jair Transportes, Angola)</td>
<td>9 Cuca Nocebo (Angola)</td>
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<td>10 Walter Silva (Benfica de Luanda, Angola)</td>
<td>10 Mixed team (Cape Verde–Mozambique)</td>
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Angola celebrated 40 years of independence on November 11. Universo looks back over the past four decades at the country’s tough challenges and extraordinary achievements.
leader and first president, António Agostinho Neto – this was just four years after independence. He was succeeded by the current incumbent, José Eduardo dos Santos.

Quest for peace
From 1986 to 1992, President dos Santos sought to bring peace to the country and the region. This culminated in an agreement ensuring recognition of Angolan sovereignty and the withdrawal of invading South African troops in exchange for the repatriation of Angola’s Cuban allies. The apartheid regime collapsed not long afterwards in 1994.

The president then pushed for a negotiated settlement to Angola’s civil conflict with the aim of establishing a pluralist state, developing a market economy and organising democratic elections. The first post-independence election took place in September 1992, but the opposition party UNITA (União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola – National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) refused to accept the MPLA (Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola – People’s Movement for the Liberation of Angola) majority victory, which the UN had judged to be free and fair.

A major step forward was US recognition of Angola in May 1993. This led to the Lusaka Agreement in November 1994 to bring an end to the conflict. Full-scale war with UNITA broke out again in 1998, and the fighting only stopped in 2002 when its leader, Jonas Savimbi, was killed.

Since then general elections in 2008 and 2012 enhanced Angola’s democratic credentials, giving a clear mandate to the current MPLA government under President dos Santos.

Unfettered reconstruction
Angola’s greatest reconstruction victories have only come about since peace was established in April 2002. The most remarkable aspect of the country’s development is its breakneck pace in the relatively short period of just 13 years.

The problems faced at this new start were compounded in the capital, Luanda, by recent mass migration as refugees fled their rural homes to seek protection. A once quiet city designed for half a million is now home to 10 times that number. Once a population is in place, it is notoriously difficult to then insert the infrastructure needed for roads, water, sewers and electricity supplies. Angola in 2002 was a much rougher place to develop than the one that saw the first flag of independence raised in November 1975.

However, the country was fortunate to benefit from the high price of oil during the first decade of peace. This permitted huge investments in replacing and enhancing the infrastructure necessary from 2002 to the present. Angola’s annual GDP growth rate averaged a staggering 11 per cent in the period 2003–11, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

“Our aim is to expand the domestic market, integrate it and diversify the productive base,” declared President dos Santos. This was the objective of the huge rebuilding programme that has been transforming and enhancing Angola’s infrastructure since peace was achieved.

Oiling the economy
Angola’s main industry and dollar-earner is of course crude oil, which it currently produces at a rate of around 1.8 million barrels each day, compared to less than a million in 2002.

State oil company Sonangol E.P. has gained the respect of its foreign counterparts and works in partnership with the world’s largest operators. The firm’s many activities within Angola include a speedy expansion of its fuel distribution network to every province. New Luandaalone boasts 261 petrol stations, when just over five years ago it was possible to queue for fuel for hours in the city that had only a handful of outlets. These stations also sometimes supply cooking gas, and often have an attached convenience store and café.
Rebuilding Angola

There have been so many great achievements in Angola’s reconstruction efforts – too many to list here – but the following should give a general idea of its scale, although this is only a rapid overview of some of the changes taking place today.

The country is being rebuilt from the foundations up. The government has concentrated its massive investment efforts on providing the basic infrastructure needed for the long term, and this is clearly illustrated in the colossal scale of its energy plans.

**Energy**

Angola benefits from ample water resources, and its current main power source is the 520MW Capanda dam on the River Kwanza. Work started on Capanda in 1987 but, owing to the war, only began producing energy in 2004 and reached full capacity in 2007. From 2016, Capanda will be joined by the 960MW Cambambe dam which is being uprated from its current 180MW. Then in 2017, the first turbine of the 2,067MW Laúca mega-dam is set to spin. Not satisfied with this, an even larger project, the colossal $4.5 billion 2,172MW Caculo Cabaça dam, was announced in June. The Chinese builder responsible is expected to take six years to complete it.

Meanwhile several smaller, older dams have been refurbished such as Matala and Gove on the River Cunene. In total, Angola’s rivers have an estimated potential of 18,000MW of hydropower.

A major transmission line now carries power from Cambambe to the Lobito–Benguela region. Long-interrupted irrigation projects, based on Angola’s plentiful waters and fertile soils, are now restarting with the advent of reliable energy supplies. Industrial development such as food processing plants and mining operations can go ahead as power becomes more widely available. The hefty dam investments outlined above show that Angola has an ambitious view of its future development, as projected generation capacity is far in excess of current demand.

**Roads to freedom**

Another peace dividend has been the rebuilding of several thousand kilometres of roads. Now, unlike in the quite recent past, it is not unusual to travel the length and breadth of this vast territory, four times the size of the United Kingdom. Huge numbers of bridges had to be built from scratch and only after the long, painstaking removal of the surrounding landmines. The right to travel without interference across the whole country has now been firmly re-established. The revamped highways allow the wide circulation of goods and services, and have started to make the country operate as a unified market, with farm produce from once inaccessible areas now delivered to the towns. Family visits have become easier, and a new nationwide bus service now connects most provincial capitals with a regular timetable. One exotic consequence of all this has been the sight in Luanda’s city centre of visiting Mwila women – extravagantly bejewelled – who in the past rarely travelled outside their homeland in the south.

The capital also boasts a modern motorway that sweeps in a wide arc around its conurbation. This helps heavy port traffic avoid crossing the busy inner city area.

**On the rails**

Another major transport breakthrough has been the complete reconstruction and re-equipping of Angola’s three long distance east-west railways: Luanda–Malange, the Benguela Railway and the Moçâmedes line which links Namibe to Menongue.

The state has also upgraded Angola’s port services. The port of Luanda, once one of the country’s biggest bottlenecks, where ships could queue up to three months to moor in 2007, now sees waiting times of fewer than two days! Container flows then were only 150,000 units per year, compared with 529,500 in 2014. New road and rail access means the port can now also make use of dry ports in the Cacuaco and Viana on Luanda’s periphery to alleviate congestion. Improved management and customs clearance have also helped to speed up cargo handling.
New port loading equipment and better transport access have also led to ‘development corridors’ to the interior. Lobito is now able to capture lucrative international freight traffic such as copper from neighbouring Zambia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Namibe port is now ready again to handle iron ore traffic in soon-to-be-reopened mines at Menongue. Meanwhile, a new superport is planned at Dande, north of Luanda, to handle iron ore traffic in soon-to-be-completed Namibe port is now ready again to handle iron ore traffic in soon-to-be-reopened mines at Menongue.

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Angola has excellent transmission growth is in telecommunications (see story on MSTelecom, p. 18). Angola has excellent transmission infrastructure, which supports plenty of capacity to offer advanced mobile services.

Another great gain of independence is the steep rise in mass education in Angola. While in 2010 there were 4.4 million pupils in its schools, this figure jumped to 6.1 million by June 2012 and has continued to expand. A welcome consequence of the return of Angolans to their homeland once peace was re-established has been the education and training they received there. Vocational and university training abroad continues thanks to Angola’s many bilateral agreements with a host of countries, but more of these institutions are being established both in Luanda and in the provinces.

The Angolan government has built large housing projects on greenfield sites to meet the massive shortage of homes. All around the capital’s beltway, new buildings have risen. The largest of several developments in Luanda is Kilamba Kianzu district, which will eventually house 485,000 residents. The first 3,180 of 20,002 apartments were completed in 2011. Many of the occupants in the new residential complex had been moved from areas in danger of flooding and landslides in downtown Luanda. The government has completed similar greenfield housing schemes in all of Angola’s 18 provinces.

Motorists are now enjoying better roads and pavements, improved pavements in downtown Luanda. The government has redeveloped Luanda Bay as an urban park several kilometres long, and the bay itself now boasts much cleaner waters thanks to improved wastewater collection and flooding prevention. Angolans also now have access to new supermarket chains selling local produce with just-in-time fresh deliveries in most cities. There are also growing numbers of cafés, bars and restaurants. Two new shopping centres are about to be added in downtown Luanda, including the giant Kianzu development. The country has come a long way from the shopping desert it once was, but still needs many more retailers.

The quality of life of many locals, as elsewhere on the planet, has been enhanced by the widespread use of mobile phones and information technology. The appearance of large numbers of new banks on Angolan streets has been a major peace dividend. Automated cash machines are standard features and are well used by the populace. The banking sector is a major employer in the new Angola.

The watchwords of Angolan development in recent years have been ‘economic diversification’ and adding ‘local content’ to create more jobs, as the country seeks to move away from reliance on oil sales. Angola has made great progress in engineering oil industry equipment, a prime example being the building of the Paenal shipyard at Porto Amboim, where the country recently manufactured and fitted complex topside modules for FPSOs (floating production, storage and offloading vessels). Angola also makes and loads the long cables and flow lines for oil rigs at its Angoflex yard near Luanda, and welds huge rig structures at Sonamat in Lobito and Ambiriz in Bengo province.

A key ingredient in stimulating local training and employment is the Angolanisation policy, which requires foreign companies to employ at least 85 per cent Angolans at all levels in their in-country operations.
Elsewhere domestic food security is being underpinned by the construction of a series of huge grain silos. Angola is now producing rice thanks to Chinese cooperation, and coffee production is slowly awaking from long neglect.

The next big step in Angola’s economic diversification is the exploitation of its mineral resources, facilitated by the rebuilding of its railways. The country’s rich iron ore and manganese deposits, once exported at an annual rate of over 6 million tonnes, are set to make a comeback in the next couple of years.

Another fast-developing industry is tourism and hotels. The oil boom led to a spate of hotel building to accommodate the large numbers of foreign specialists, while easier road access has stimulated demand for new hotels throughout the country for business clients and tourists.

Apart from beach resorts, Angola is developing eco-tourist options based on its much devastated national parks and natural beauties, such as Kalandula Falls. Kissama, the nearest park to Luanda, has been restocked with South African co-operation and is now thriving. The least accessible park, Okavango Delta, on Angola’s Namibian and Botswana borders, is the latest unspoilt attraction for wildlife tourists in the country.

International cruise liners now also visit Angola’s ports with growing frequency.

Looking ahead

Having looked back over the past 40 years, it is perhaps time to look ahead briefly to the promising future of this great country.

The gains listed above illustrate well the scale of Angola’s post-independence progress. The government has a long-term development vision and is building wide and deep foundations to support it. The basic ingredients are in place: revamped roads, ports, railways, airports and world-class telecommunications. To realise Angola’s economic potential and
supply the population with its needs, the government is adding massive power generation resources. These will provide the crucial spark for its already expanding agribusiness as well as its ambitious mining and industrialisation plans.

Sonangol celebrates 40 years of independence
As part of the commemorative programme celebrating the country’s 40th anniversary, Sonangol sponsored a wide range of events which included the Tour of Angola cycle race (see p. 34). From August 15 to September 12, a musical roadshow travelled the country, with some events produced free of charge by Arca Velha Entertainments and supported by provincial governments. Towns visited on the tour were Soyo (Zaire), Luena (Moxico), Malange, Huambo, Lubango (Huíla) and Benguela.

The roadshow brought together a large number of well-known Angolan and international singers as well as new talents. Among the performers taking part in the spectacles were Yuri da Cunha, Pérola, Ary, Yannick Afroman, Yola Araújo, Eddy Tussa, Heavy C, Títica, Gabriel Tchiema, Kueno Aionda, Euclides da Lomba, Kyaku Kyadaff, Big Nelo, Kalibrados and the group Zona 5.

Os Tunezas, also marked their presence, offering a perfect combination of humour and music. The roadshow was a great success and attracted over 30,000 spectators.

Luanda also had a leading role in celebrations and was the capital of theatre for 25 days, putting on 28 plays in four different venues, all organised by the Cena Livre company. The ‘Angola 40 Years’ theatre season brought actors and the public to the stage at LAASP, Njinga Mbandi auditorium, Elinga Theatre and the IGCA Complex. The performances began with a gala at Casa 70 where the play Presidential Speeches was put on by the Sambizanga Theatre Association. The work synthesised more than 20 speeches of President José Eduardo dos Santos.

The season closed with a homage to the first president of Angola, Agostinho Neto, with the Catarcis Teatro group making a brilliant presentation of the play Neto President, in which 30 children, aged 7-14 took part. The public reaction was unanimous: judging by the number of groups involved and venues used and by the huge presence of actors among the audience, this was the best theatre season ever produced in Angola.

Sonangol sponsored an international football tournament Angola 40 years. Angola hosted three teams from neighbouring Zambia, Namibia and Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The home team dispatched Namibia 3–0 and went on to overcome DRC 1–0 in the final.

Other activities included a festival of sports gymnastics; the production of a strip cartoon and animation about the history of Angola; a trip for the elderly to the Dr António Agostinho Neto Memorial and to the Armed Forces Museum; a talent show Olympiad in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry; a junior national football tournament with teams from Angola, Brazil, Portugal and Mozambique; a CD recording of music and voices from the past and a literary anthology.
ON THE ROUTE OF OIL.

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Wings of Tranquility
Sonangol wishes a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all its employees, partners, customers, suppliers and friends