

US company buys LatAm oil inspection group

Lily Squires
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US oil inspection company AmSpec has hired a slew of Latin American law firms to buy Texas-based counterpart Oil Test Internacional, expanding its presence in 13 countries across the region.

Marval O'Farrell Mairal in Buenos Aires, Bolivia's CR & F Rojas Abogados, Chilean firm Claro & Cía, Brigard Urrutia in Bogotá, Pérez Bustamante & Ponce (PBP) in Quito, Romero Pineda & Asociados in San Salvador, Mayora & Mayora (Guatemala), Honduras' GUFA Law and Guyer & Regules in Montevideo all advised AmSpec.

Latin Lawyer understands that AmSpec also hired Facio & Cañas in San José; Alvarado y Asociados in Managua; Panamanian firm Arias, Fábrega & Fábrega and Peroni, Sosa, Tellechea, Burt & Narvaja in Asunción, but these details could not be confirmed before publishing.

The target relied on its in-house counsel for the deal, which closed on 31 March for a confidential amount.

AmSpec adds to its portfolio of oil testing, inspection and certification assets with the acquisition, which marks the buyer's entry into Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay.

The purchase also hands the buyer 78 new inspection facilities, giving AmSpec a total of 341 assets across 77 countries.

With over 35 years' experience in testing, inspection and certification operations, New Jersey-based AmSpec also offers services in the renewables, agriculture, transport and mining sectors.

Houston-headquartered Oil Test Internacional operates a network of 20 offices and laboratories across Latin America. The company was founded in 2003 and worked in affiliation with AmSpec for 14 years prior to the acquisition.

Counsel to AmSpec

In-house counsel – Steven Dorry

Marval O'Farrell Mairal

Partner Pablo García Morillo and associates Mariano Morat, Daiana Veira and María Victoria Gonzalez in Buenos Aires

CR & F Rojas Abogados

Partner Diego Rojas and associates Diego Aguilera and Mery Cuellar in Santa Cruz

Claro & Cía

Partner Felipe Larraín and associate Vicente Allende in Santiago

Brigard Urrutia

Partner Fernando Castillo and associates Andrea Cruz and Natalia Castiblanco in Bogotá

Pérez Bustamante & Ponce (PBP)

Partners Sebastián Cortez and Diego Pérez-Ordoñez, and associates Patricio Albuja and María Elena Sanmartin in Quito

Romero Pineda & Asociados

Partner Francisco Martínez, of counsel Antonio Mendez and associate Roberto Pocasangre in San Salvador

Mayora & Mayora (Guatemala)

Partners Sandra Castillo, Rafael Briz, Claudia Pereira, Juan Carlos Casellas and María Fernanda Morales, and associates Sheyla Vargas, Ana Cristina Garita, Suzel Obiols, Juan Carlos Foncea, Carlos Ortega, José Ramos and Marvin Chavez in Guatemala City

GUFA Law

Partner Mauricio Villeda and associates Javier López and José Armando Díaz in Tegucigalpa

Guyer & Regules

Partners Nicolás Piaggio and Leonardo Slinger, counsel Sofía Anza, director María Beatriz Viera and associates Rodrigo Varela, Nicolas Stefanoli, Daniela Risso, Italo Raymondo, Marcelo Marchetti, Fabiana Barrera, Frangina Miño, Martín Canepa, Santiago Madalena and Valentina González in Montevideo

Counsel to Oil Test Internacional

In-house counsel – Juan Domingo Salerno

This article was updated on 4 May 2023 to include Guyer & Regules' counsel to AmSpec.

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