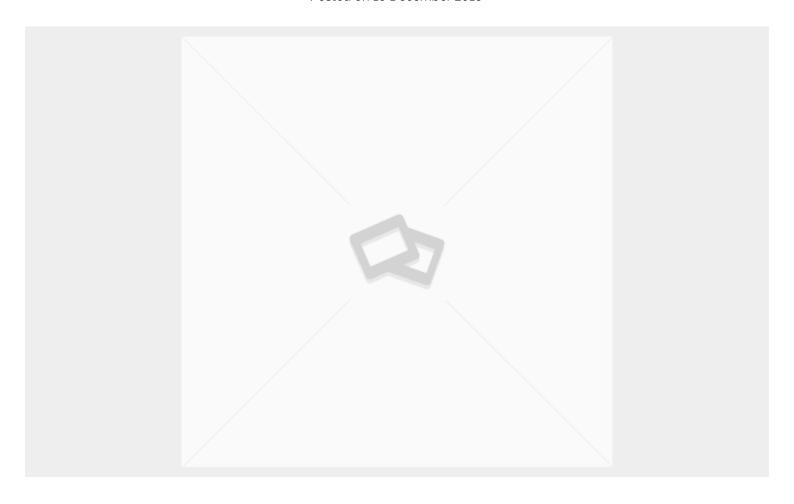
## BRAZIL'S SCHMIDT, VALOIS JOINS FORCES WITH PORTUGAL'S MC&A

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Brazilian law firm Schmidt, Valois, Miranda, Ferreira & Agel (SVMFA) and Portugal's MC&A announced a strategic alliance to respond to the growing potential for investment in Brazil, Portugal and Portuguese-speaking African countries.

The alliance, based in Lisbon and Rio de Janeiro, will operate as a Swiss verein under the brand MC Valois Miranda. The newly launched operation will have 75 lawyers and a presence in Portugal, Brazil, Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde, Sao Tome and Principe and Guinea Bissau.

Schmidt, Valois has strong expertise in areas such as natural resources and infrastructure. The firm recently parted ways with L.O. Baptista Advogados, a Brazilian law firm with which it had a long term alliance.

MC&A is renowned for its focus on capital markets and finance. The firm is also in a cooperation agreement with Dentons providing on the ground presence for the global law firm in Angola and Mozambique. It is not immediately clear the impact of the launch of

