

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20549

Form 6-K

**REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER PURSUANT TO
RULE 13A-16 OR 15D-16 OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE
ACT OF 1934**

For the month of December 2003

(Commission File No. 001-14487)

TELE NORTE LESTE PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Tele Norte Leste Holding Company

(Translation of registrant's name in English)

Rua Humberto de Campos, 425 - 8º andar

Rio de Janeiro, R.J.

Federative Republic of Brazil

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

(Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file
annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F.)

Form 20-F ☒ Form 40-F

(Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by
furnishing the information contained in this form
is also thereby furnishing the information to the
Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934.)

Yes ☐ No ☒

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

TELE NORTE LESTE PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.

Date: December 12, 2003

By

Name: Marcos Grodetzky
Title: Investor Relations Officer

Rio de Janeiro, December 12, 2003 – Tele Norte Leste Participações S/A released today in Brazil a “Comunicado” or Statement in compliance with section 157, paragraph 4 of Law 6.404/76 and with Instruction CVM nr 358/02, stating that its operational subsidiary TELEMAR NORTE LESTE S.A. (“TELEMAR”) subscribed today to new shares of COARI PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A., a publicly traded company with head offices in the City and State of São Paulo, at Rua Pamplona, 818, conj. 92, enrolled CNPJ/MF under nr 04.030.087/0001-09 (“Company”), as a result of an increase in the Company’s capital in the amount of R\$ 160,000.00, approved by all of the Company’s shareholders. TELEMAR subscribed to 16,000,000 shares, which added to the 22,496 shares already owned by TELEMAR, bring its total holdings to 16,022,496 shares. The Company’s capital is R\$165,000.00, and TELEMAR holds 97.11% of it. The acquisition of the control of the Company allows TELEMAR to use it as a vehicle should it decide to participate in the possible consolidation of the telecommunications sector.

Marcos Grodetzky

Investor Relations Officer