



Construction Cluster working on improving island's economy

BY CB STAFF

Working on implementing a state-of-the-art Use Permit System, thinking about exporting services to the mainland U.S., eastern Caribbean and Central America, prioritizing the making of Puerto Rico's industries more competitive and helping the socioeconomic development of the island are just some of what members of the Puerto Rico Construction Cluster have on their agendas.

The Construction Cluster was founded in 2005 composed of the Puerto Rico Industrial Development Co. (Pridco), the Puerto Rico Manufacturers Association, private enterprises and the University of Puerto Rico. "Our actions' final objective is to make our industries more competitive and help

the socioeconomic development in Puerto Rico," said Alberto Ruiz Ortiz, manager of the Construction Cluster.

"We want the life science companies established on the island to use local companies for everything related to facilities delivery. This way suppliers will become more competitive and competent, giving multinational companies the smarter option of looking our way instead of using others in Ireland and Singapore, for example," added Ruiz. He added that no doubt this would bring much-needed investments to the island. Designers Capacete Martin & Associates (CMA); Iván Hernández & Associates (IAHA); UNIPRO; construction managers Aireko Management Systems (AMS); Caribbean Project Management (CPM), and specialized service providers

PACIV, and Pharma Bio Serv are committed to delivering facilities better and faster than their counterparts in other countries.

Ruiz told CARIBBEAN BUSINESS the Cluster is working on many projects such as the reactivation of closed pharmaceutical plants, creating awareness on cost containment in the construction industry and creating leverage among the marketing efforts of Pridco and the Cluster. "We are working on different projects where tourism, exportation, updating the permits system and working closely with multinational companies

will improve Puerto Rico's supply chain and therefore its competitiveness," he said.

The Construction Cluster has grown from eight members in 2005 to 50 members today, which only enforces the reality that the changes it is working on will benefit everyone allowing them to participate in a more robust economy, he said.

"We are focusing on our plans and hope to improve our communications with multinational companies so they become aware of the competitiveness of our local professionals," concluded Ruiz. ■

Coneco: a powerhouse in the control equipment arena

BY CB STAFF

After 35 years in the control equipment market, Coneco de Puerto Rico is reaping praises from its clients. "When your customers call your company a dynamic powerhouse, it's the best recognition you can receive," said Coneco President Enrique Medina. "Our greatest recent achievement is getting this compliment after we delivered equipment and provided all the services to comply with all our customers' requirements on their projects."

Coneco is a leading provider of control equipment including field instrumentation, automation equipment, control and sanitary valves, mixers, cooling towers and control room consoles. The company also provides the engineering and related services for the equipment it carries.

Medina said Coneco's products and services are important to the industries it serves because its high quality and masterful implementations help customers achieve their critical objectives and, as a result, maximize their investments. The process equipment company recently announced it would add several new products to enhance its already impressive portfolio. These new additions to its roster of exclusive representations include

DeZurik Control Valves, Eurotherm Controls and Tower Tech Cooling Towers. The company has also been certified to provide the services and support for the new lines.

"We are in continuous evolution, looking for better ways to do business, incorporating new product lines with state-of-the-art technologies and expanding our services group to work on new applications for the new technology," said Medina.

Customer service is also high on the list of priorities at Coneco, as is a competent, well-trained staff. "The level of service we offer our customers and

considering them as partners in business generate a degree of confidence that lets them know we will be there when they need us," said Medina. "And our Coneco de Puerto Rico staff of engineers has a great deal of expertise and experience. They are second to none in the areas of instrumentation, process equipment, process control, process automation and data integration.

Medina said the company's plans for the future include growing in the services area and adding new markets, as well as bringing new products into its portfolio and becoming a single provider of goods and services in the process industry. ■

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