

BIG CARIBBEAN BUSINESS PROFILES

PHARMACEUTICAL & HEALTHCARE INDUSTRIES



Paciv Inc: 'Keep Doing What We Do Well'

BY LUIS N. SEPÚLVEDA PÉREZ

Jorge Rodríguez, founder & president of Process Automation, Controls, Instruments, Validation Inc. (Paciv) is very proud of his company, which was established in Puerto Rico in 1997. The company—which provides turnkey engineering, application, implementation, and computerized system-validation solutions for the pharmaceutical industry—garnered \$12 million in 2004 and projects sales of \$14 million in 2005.

Paciv's areas of expertise and service related to the pharmaceutical industry include dry-product processes such as granulation, tablet compression, capsules, tablet coating, and other related peripherals, as well as bulk facilities involving fermentation, purification, absorption, crystallization, and centrifuges. Paciv also works with such utilities as deionizers, ultraviolet (UV) lights, water softeners, de-alkalizers, and prefilters, along with purified water generation,

storage, and distribution systems. Other services include building automation, incinerators, lab automation, and consulting in related areas.

Two years ago, Paciv invested \$200,000 in new equipment and technology for validation and commissioning tests. Now, these tests are done in-house, thereby producing quicker and more accurate results. Also, the innovation has made Paciv self-sufficient.

"Although some pharmaceutical companies have decreased their operations in recent times, we have increased ours in the biotechnology sector," said Rodríguez. "As a matter of fact, we are business partners of Eli Lilly, and we worked in the automation system of this new plant, the world's second-largest biotechnological plant, which is in Carolina," he maintained.

While some pharmaceutical plants are partially or totally closing, Amgen, Astra Zeneca, Johnson & Johnson, Abbott, and Eli Lilly have experienced 20% operational growth mainly because their focus is on biotechnology



**Jorge Rodríguez,
founder & president of Paciv,
upon receiving the award as
one of Puerto Rico's
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PACIV is the largest life sciences' automation and computer system validation firm in Puerto Rico with certified and experienced automation professionals (automation project engineers, automation engineers, instrument technicians, computer system validation specialists and technical writers).

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and the establishment of new plants on the island.

Paciv has 110 employees in Puerto Rico and 35 at its Indianapolis offices (established in 2002 to serve Puerto Rico clients in the mainland U.S.) "We are working with Roche Diagnostics at its Indianapolis headquarters. This project soon will be extended to new facilities to be constructed at the Ponce plant," Rodríguez said.

Paciv's 2006 expectations, Rodríguez said, are very positive, including providing maintenance for Lilly's and Amgen's new plant systems to assure continuity of service and participating in the move of the project from Roche Indianapolis to Ponce. n