

Manufacturing industry has full agenda till summer

Political candidates likely to be paying attention to industry concerns

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This election year is starting off with a number of events that will shape political parties' campaign platforms related to Puerto Rico's manufacturing industry.

Regulatory Compliance Services' (ReComS) 2004 Regulatory Industry Outreach Conference will take place March 3 at San Juan Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino, announced ReComS Vice President Eric Olivieri. Members of the pharmaceutical, medical devices, cosmetics & consumer, food processing & packaging, and healthcare sectors will hear about contract manufacturing, orphan products development, laboratory controls, product counterfeiting, security & safety, recalls & regulatory action trends, and compliance issues regarding medical devices.

Invited guests include U.S. Food & Drug Administration Southeast Regional Director Gary Dykstra; Maryland Office of Orphan Products Development Director Marlene Haffner; San Juan Regional Director Don Voeller; Chris Wogee, chief of the California Department of Health's medical devices section; Juanita Hawkins, vice president of quality assurance at Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Sourcing Group Americas; and City of San Juan Healthcare Director Alfredo Escalera. For information, write recoms_pr@hotmail.com.

On March 4 & 5, the Puerto Rico Manufacturers Association's first Manufacturing Forum at the Caribe Hilton will bring together experts from various industry sectors to discuss advances in global competitiveness and how local companies can keep up. Topics include the global economy, research & development, demand-flow technology, Six Sigma & lean manufacturing systems, voice technology, and strategic cost management.

Nypro President Brian Jones and Wainwright Industries President & CEO Arthur D. Wainwright, past presidents of the Association for Manufacturing Excellence and the National Association of Manufacturers, respectively, will be keynote speakers. At the end of the conference, there will be a panel discussion led by Estudios Tecnicos President Jose Joaquin Villamil on the "Future of Puerto Rico's Economic Development." For more information, visit www.prma.com.

The Puerto Rico Products Association's 38th convention will run April 30 through May 2 at Hyatt Dorado Beach Resort & Country Club. One of the first business organizations to hold its annual convention this year, the PRPA has invited all three gubernatorial candidates to speak about the future of Puerto Rico's manufacturing companies. For more information, visit www.hechoenpr.com.

ExcipientFest 2004 will be a two-day affair April 15 & 16 at Ritz-Carlton San Juan Hotel, Spa & Casino. Originally a technical event to discuss emerging pharmaceutical ingredients & chemicals and their interactions, the conference now includes a trade expo for excipient manufacturers and service providers. ExcipientFest 2004 will be divided in two sections: a regulatory conference & panel and a technical seminar. For more information, visit www.excipientfest.com.