

Medical Devices Cluster News



PRTEC

Puerto Rico Technoeconomic Corridor

The Rebirth of the Medical Devices Cluster

During 2007 the Medical Devices Cluster (MDC) went through a rebirth under the leadership of Miguel Centeno (Roche). Participation has increase significantly and more than fifteen companies, government agencies and suppliers have joined the Cluster. Our mission is to integrate medical device manufactures, providers, and related institutions to develop strategies and foster synergies that will enhance the business environment in the areas where clusters members conduct their operations. In order to accomplish the mission and objectives, the activities of the Cluster has been divided into 4 working groups: the Regulatory and Compliance team, Benchmark team, Education team and the Supply Chain team.



The Regulatory & Compliance Team



As it's name suggest the Regulatory and Compliance team focus on making activities to improve and strengthen the regulatory aspects of the industry in the island. The team is lead by Nidia Acevedo of Carlo Law Offices and the members are: Juan Pérez (QCSV Inc.), Lismarie Alamo (St. Jude Medical Facility), Betsy Rosario (Medtronic), José Molina (Edward LifeSciences) and Marilú Ortíz (PRIDCO). The Committee had organized two activities: the first one, celebrated on November 16, 2007 with representatives from FDA. This activity took place at PRIDCO with over 70 participants of medical devices cluster. The main speaker was the director of the Investigation Branch of the FDA at San Juan District Office. She discussed the regulatory trends in Medical Devices Industry. The second one took place at St. Jude Medical Facility in Caguas and also included participation from the FDA. The main topic was CAPA and was a joint effort with the Benchmarking team.

Key Accomplishments by the Benchmarking Team

The Benchmarking team has been very active . The following table highlights their activities:

Location	Theme/Activity
Stryker	Lean Manufacturing Program
Essilor	Power Energy Reduction
Medtronic	Lean Initiatives & Product Development
Roche	Social-Technical Approach & Social Responsibility
St. Jude Medical	CAPA System
More than 15 MD Companies with over 20 representative in attendance in all of them.	



The Benchmarking team members are: Ricardo Cintrón (Roche), Sobeida Irizarry (Essilor), José Rodríguez (St. Jude), Rafael Cruz (Medtronic), Francisco Santiago (Stryker) and it's leader Gerry Mari Roca (Medtronic).



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Puerto Rico, a major exhibitor at AdvaMed

World Leader in Medical Devices Manufacturing

High level executives from Puerto Rico's medical devices industry participated in the AdvaMed First Annual Conference that took place in Washington, DC, October 1st to 3rd. AdvaMed is the world's largest association representing the medical devices industry.

The group of medical devices executives was led by Enrique Mirandes, Director for Life Sciences of the Puerto Rico Industrial Company (PRIDCO). Mr. Mirandes was joined by Norma Mejía, President of PRTEC and General manager of Edwards Lifesciences; Nelson Perea, Executive Director of the Puerto Rico Tecnoeconomic Corridor (PRTEC); Ramón Cayuela, Chief Executive Officer of Computer Integration of Quality Assurance, Inc. (CIQA); Thomas Agrait, Operations Vice President of ISS Corporation; Ed Agrait of Celestica's Puerto Rico facility and Luis Torres Acosta Vice-president of AMS Construction Managers.



In this picture: Representatives of the MD Clusters at AdvaMed

Medical Devices Cluster Executive Board

Chairperson	Roche	Miguel Centeno
Regulatory & Compliance Committee	Carlo Law Offices	Nydia Acevedo
Education Committee	ISO Group	David Díaz
Benchmark Committee	Medtronic	Gerardo Mari Roca
Supply Chain Committee	Essilor	Sobeida Irizarry
Cluster Administrator	PRTEC	Nelson Perea

PRTEC's Medical Devices Cluster in collaboration with Reed Exhibitions, hosted a networking activity on October 30, 2007 in which Kenny Méndez (Chief Administrator Officer) from AdvaMed was the main speaker. Mr. Mendez discussed the impact of the medical devices sector in the economy and their relevance in Puerto Rico industry. The activity took place at Mayagüez Resort and Casino. Over 75 members of Medical Devices Cluster of Puerto Rico participated including representations of manufacturing companies, suppliers and service providers, university professors and PRIDCO. The activity provided a great forum for networking. The MD Cluster has also collaborated with Reed Exhibitions three years in a row with the organization of the Interphex/ Medical Device Event at the San Juan Convention Center.

Education Team

The MD Cluster in collaboration with the Polytechnic University submitted and were awarded a grant from the Department of Labor Occupational Development and Human Resources Council (CDORH). It will start on July 2008 and will impact 100 current employees of the medical devices companies in the island. The curriculum will include six areas: communication skills, computer basics, project management, automation, quality programs and problem solving techniques. The team members are: Wilda Torres (St. Jude), Kenneth Fernández (Stryker), Mayra López (Roche), María Ojeda (Medtronics), Jessica Donate (Edwards) and it's leader David Díaz (ISO Group).

Supply Chain Team

On March 11, 2008 the Supply Chain Team celebrated their first activity at PRIDCO. José Frontera (PRIMEX) talked about the Responsibility of Supply Chain and Key areas of importance. The team is responsible for compiling information on the supply chain area. The committee has worked with PRICCO in developing a supply chain survey, that can be access through PRIDCO's web page.



In this picture the Mr. Frontera at the Conference

The team is integrated by it's leader Sobeida Irizarry (Essilor), Jorge O'neill (St. Jude), Yadira Rosa (Synovis), Elsieo Negrón (Edwards), Jorge Laboy (PRIDCO) and Marta Carrasquillo (Styker).