

# PRTEC Newsletter

*Puerto Rico Technoeconomic Corridor*  
*La Quinta Industrial Site, Balboa 177, Mayagüez, PR 00680*  
[www.prteconline.com](http://www.prteconline.com)

**“PRTEC is a non-profit organization that promotes economic development with a focus on innovation and high tech industry through a strategic alliance among industry, government and academia”.**

**PRTEC main initiatives:**

- **Research & Technology Parks**
- **Clusters**
- **VITEC<sup>2</sup>**
- **Aguadilla Airport**
- **Porta del Sol**

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

- Iris E. Santos**, HP (President)  
**Walter Gutiérrez**, Metaltec (Vice President)  
**Angel M. Canabal**, UBS (Treasurer)  
**Norma Mejía**, Edwards Lifesciences  
**Eduardo Bález**, Lifescan, LLC  
**Luis Alvarado**, Baxter  
**Pedro Martínez**, Celestica  
**Carlos González**, Politechnic University  
**Fernando Bird**, UPRM  
**Luis Abbott**, AMO  
**Antonio Sosa**, Consultant  
**Jaime Morales**, Dep. of Economic Development  
**Jorge Sánchez**, Technology Alliance Group

## Southern Growth Policies Board awards PRTEC in Alabama

PRTEC was honored with a regional innovator award during a two-day conference, “Rising Together: Summit on the Rural South”, that began in June 12 in Alabama.

Alabama Governor Bob Riley presented Nelson Perea, executive director of PRTEC and Jose Vega Torres, director of the Economic Development Center at the University of Puerto Rico in Mayagüez, with an Innovator Award at the opening session of the conference.

Each year Southern Growth Policies Board, a regional public policy think tank, recognizes innovative programs in the US South that are improving the quality of life in the region with Innovators Awards.

PRTEC was recognized for its work to position Puerto Rico as a world-class center for high technology.

Southern Growth Policies Board is a non-partisan public policy think tank

based in research Triangle Park, North Carolina. It is supported by the governments of 13 Southern states and Puerto Rico.



Jose Vega, director of UPRM Economic Development Center, Bob Riley, Alabama Governor and Nelson Perea, executive director of The Puerto Rico Technoeconomic Corridor.

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## Joint initiatives in Technology Forum

The projects and initiatives by PRTEC, ViTEC2 Technology Incubator and the UPRM were spotlighted during the forum titles: **“UPRM & Industry : A Partnership for Success in the New Knowledge Economy in PR”**. “The main objective of presentations was to start viewing the UPRM as a driver in the knowledge-based economy development of PR”, PRTEC Executive Director Nelson Perea said. UPRM Chancellor Jorge I. Velez described the forum as “ a way to recognize the research activities at UPRM, particularly in knowledge-based economic areas such as biotechnology, aerospace engineering and nanotechnology”. Several initiatives have al-

ready come to fruition and are proof of success when the private sector, academia and government work together. Some of these initiatives are: the success of **Infotech Aerospace** , where PRIDCO, PRTEC, Vitec2 in conjunction with UPRM established a development center at Mayaguez; **Commoca** a local technology company led by a former Texas Instrument employee and a UPRM electrical engineering professor developing voice over IP applications; A **Future Medical Devices Research and Manufacturing Center** located at Guanajibo led by a group of professors and re-

searchers from UPRM School of Engineering; **HP’s** patents through its R&D center in Aguadilla which also works in conjunction with UPRM professors and researchers; **Dupont** and UPRM chemical engineering department worked to resolve a nanomaterials problem in the company; and Puerto Rico’s first **Bioprocess Research and Workforce Development Center** is scheduled for construction in Mayaguez in 2006, a joint initiative between academia, government and industry.

## Guanajibo Research & Innovation Park

A strategic plan was developed for **The Guanajibo Research & Innovation Park (GRIP)**.

The value propositions of this park are: the shared services that will be offered to the tenants, park administration by **PRTEC**, multiple funding alternatives, R&D centers from UPRM, VITEC2, three new buildings and a renovated infrastructure.

GRIP emphasis will be the commercialization of innovative ideas/projects through establishment of local technology ventures. The park will also attract international projects that want to be near an innovation hub where academia and industry collaborate. The focus will be life sciences and C&IT projects.

Some of the projects already in progress at different stages are:

- Biotech Center for Bioprocess Research Training
- Call Center
- VITEC2
- Medical Devices R&D

GRIP strategic partners are: PRIDCO, UPRM, Municipality of Mayaguez and PRTEC.

This project is part of the investment in strategic projects and infrastructure that the Governor announced to support the economic agenda for the western region and 2010 Central American Games.

## Clusters update

**The Contract Manufacturing Cluster** has developed a project focused strategy to submit a shared bid using the different capabilities of its members as a competitive tool. The cluster is headed by Pedro Martínez of Celestica.

**The C&IT Cluster** is focused on software development capabilities, federal government contracts and human resources training. The cluster is headed by Nelson Perea from PRTEC.

**The Medical Devices Cluster** is working with professors of the University of PR, Mayaguez Campus, to establish a Medical Devices Research, Training & Manufacturing Center to be located at the Guanajibo Research & Innovation Park. Other initiatives in the cluster are: Supply Chain Survey, Clinical Trials /R&D, and Regulatory Issues. The cluster is headed by Norma Mejía from Edwards Lifesciences.

## PRTEC Participates in Innovation South Initiative

Our Executive Director, Nelson Perea, participated in a retreat to kick off the Innovation South initiative sponsored by the Southern Growth Policies Board. The meeting took place at the North Carolina Research Triangle Park during September 24-25, 2005. There was ample participation from most of the 13 states and PR including representation from Oak Ridge National Labs, the Georgia Research Alliance, the Southern Technology Council, and others.

**PRTEC** was the only representative from Puerto Rico. The meeting produced a preliminary document that will serve as the base for further meetings. The final report will be presented at the annual Southern Growth Summit in New Orleans in the summer 2006. **PRTEC** established connections with entities like: BioSouth, Council for Entrepreneurial Development and Virginia Electronic Commerce Technology Center. These collaborations are an example of what regions are doing to be more competitive in the global economy.



**October 25-28**

**To be announced** *Economic Development Workshop with west area municipalities*



**February 16-17**

**March 2006** *PRTEC Forum Entrepreneurship & Innovation: The New Frontiers in Economic Development*

# Next events

## Inside VITEC<sup>2</sup>

Recently, two companies joined **VITEC<sup>2</sup>** Technology Incubator.

The first is **Renewable Solutions Engineering**, a design and consulting firm specialized in providing complete technological solutions in the emerging field of solar energy system and other renewable sources. **RSE** is led by engineers Ernesto Rivera and Ricardo Sotomayor.

The second is **Promedser**, a manu-

facturing services company specialized in laser drilling, laser welding, laser cutting and laser degating. Laser processing target at pharmaceutical and medical devices industries. **Promedser** is led by William Rivera.

As of today **VITEC<sup>2</sup>** has seven tenants which employ about 45 people and several other prospects are in development.

**Vitec<sup>2</sup>** is also collaborating with

Grupo Guayacán in EnterPRize 2005 a business plan competition sponsored by McKinsey International the best business ideas will be rewarded in December 2005.

For more information on activities and how to apply to **VITEC<sup>2</sup>** please visit [www.vitec2.com](http://www.vitec2.com).