

## Interphex returns to Puerto Rico

Conference registrations up this year; educational tracks to focus on productivity, efficiency; tough economy makes participation, networking even more important

BY LAWSON D. THURSTON  
lawson@caribbeanbusinesspr.com

The much-anticipated Sixth Annual Interphex Puerto Rico Conference & Exhibition, the island's top pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical conference and exhibition, returns to the island Jan. 29-30 at the Puerto Rico Convention Center.

Industry insiders say that because of the tough economic conditions, it is important to get out and participate in an event like Interphex since it brings the whole industry together and provides a good barometer of current challenges and opportunities, including forging important networking connections.

"This event has grown dramatically over the years. This year, we have seen an increase in the number of individuals registering for the event (last year more than 7000 attended) and the majority of people planning to attend have registered much earlier than in years past, which is significant. In these tough economic times, people want to continue to educate themselves, network with others in the industry and it is even more important to get out and promote business," said Ivan Lugo, executive director of the Induniv research consortium, a nonprofit organization representing the industry, government and academic sectors.

"Advancements in technology, biologics and medical devices continue to redefine the parameters of our industry, while challenging global economic conditions require a new level of innovation and foresight. Puerto Rico can't escape these trends and must be prepared to compete in a changing globalized economy," said Kevin Richards, vice president of Reed Life Sciences, a division of Reed Exhibitions, which produces the event in Puerto Rico.

As Puerto Rico's largest life-sciences



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manufacturing event, Interphex Puerto Rico last year was named one of the fastest-growing tradeshows in the U.S. by the leading trade publication *Tradeshow Week*. It is one of a series of Interphex global events known as respected sources of innovation, education and professional advancement in the pharmaceutical industry, from process development through delivery to market.

"Many of the educational tracks featured this year will center on increasing productivity and efficiency. We need to be more competitive, better than anyone else, and utilize our know-how and assets to get to the next level of competitiveness. We need technology, people with the right skills and competencies, but also with the right attitudes and understanding of productivity and compliance," Lugo said.

Responding to requests from industry, the 2009 Conference & Exhibition will include new features, such as automation training for technician-level professionals, and a new energy-efficiency

conference track that will highlight "green" options for Puerto Rico's life sciences industry and best practices from industry leaders. Also featured will be a new local supplier solutions showcase—a special new section highlighting local vendors who have never exhibited at the event before, as well as a new exhibitor innovation theater—offering a series of ongoing presentations on new technology and innovation by leading exhibitors.

This event is co-located with Medical Device Puerto Rico, serving the needs of medical-device manufacturing professionals and features Supply Chain & Logistics, designed for procurement, logistics, warehousing, material handling and supply-chain professionals.

"Attending Interphex and Medical Device Puerto Rico is more important than ever. It's an investment that allows you to keep up in today's challenging markets and tough economic environments. You

don't have to leave the island to find opportunities for education, training, networking and marketing. You can do it right here in Puerto Rico!" Richards added.

"We have to be a catalyst and always in the forefront of change. In the past, we used to be the recipients of technologies, instructions and products. Now, we need to be the generators of change; we have the competency to do that, and Interphex is a perfect setting to put all this into perspective," Lugo concluded.

Last year, more than 400 leading industry suppliers participated in the two-day exhibition area, which was visited by 7,109 industry professionals.

Reed Life Sciences delivers influential leaders in life sciences through unique combinations of conferences, exhibitions, workshops, partnering opportunities and networking events. Reed Exhibitions manages more than 450 trade shows annually worldwide. ■

## First Energy Puerto Rico Inc. established on the island

Introduces Flexlight solar-laminate panels that are 20% more efficient, able to withstand 200 MPH winds; tax credits available with more planned

LAWSON D. THURSTON  
lawson@caribbeanbusinesspr.com

Solar-energy company First Energy Puerto Rico Inc. recently established operations on the island as an exclusive distributor and installer of Flexlight solar-laminate panels for industrial and residential use. The system can produce up

to 20% more energy under real-world operating conditions than a crystalline system of the same size.

The system, because of its design on flexible laminate, which is five times lighter than traditional panels, is attached directly to roof surfaces with an adhesive without requiring structural work or roof penetration.

It is the only system able to withstand 200 miles per hour hurricane-force winds.

"These panels are really the only ones that are hurricane-resistant, and are virtually indestructible. They tested these flexi-panels with winds up to 200 mph, and the roof actually failed before the [solar] panels did. In addition, they are

Continued on next page