

Facility management takes center stage

Interdisciplinary field featured at Interphex P.R. expo; topics include green trends, maintenance, efficiency

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Facility management is an interdisciplinary field primarily devoted to maintenance and care of commercial and institutional buildings, such as hospitals, hotels, office complexes, arenas, schools and convention centers.

According to the International Facility Management Association, the “profession encompasses multiple disciplines to ensure functionality of the built environment by integrating people, place, processes and technology.”

The discipline receives attention at “Buildings Puerto Rico,” a new facilities-related exhibition at this year’s annual Interphex Puerto Rico expo, to be held Oct. 20-21 at the

Caribe Hilton Hotel in San Juan.

Buildings P.R. joins Medical Device P.R. and the Latin American Supply Chain Expo 2011 at Interphex, which built its name as the Caribbean’s premier event covering the full spectrum of life-sciences manufacturing: pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, medical devices and diagnostics.

Facility management, and its managers’ role in particular, is evolving so much that many managers operate on at least two levels: strategic-tactical and operational.

In the former, owners need to be informed about the potential impact of their decisions on the provision of space and services. In the latter, a facility manager ensures the proper operation of all aspects of a build-



ing to create an optimal, safe and cost-effective environment in which occupants can function.

“We are particularly excited to participate in the launch of Buildings P.R. as a way not only to serve industrial facilities but all buildings on the island, including hospitals, hotels, resorts and commercial locations,” said José Maeso, executive director of the P.R. Construction Cluster.

This year’s event includes offerings on green buildings, which

provide facility managers and other interested buyers from pharmaceutical plants access to resources that promote environmental and operational efficiencies.

“Interphex is the premier event on the island to locate suppliers and integrate new technologies and solutions into your operation. Attending Interphex enhances your company, whether you are sourcing materials and suppliers or taking advantage of the educational and training programs,” said Carlos Soto, general manager of Medisearch P.R. Inc.

This year’s event features more than 100 new exhibitions and over 650 suppliers of new, innovative products and solutions in every category. There also will be 30 technical sessions and ample opportunity for industry networking. ■

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