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**PUERTO RICO CONVENTION CENTER HOST TO LARGEST GATHERING OF PHARMACEUTICAL & MEDICAL DEVICE INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS**

*-- As a Hub for Pharmaceutical & Medical Device Manufacturing, Puerto Rico Expected to Draw More Than 4,000 Attendees to Participate from Island and Around-the-Globe --*

**SAN JUAN, February 8, 2006** – The Puerto Rico Convention Center will be the site of the largest gathering of pharmaceutical and medical device suppliers and professionals in industry history from February 14-21. The event combines three simultaneous conferences and exhibitions to bring together more than 4,000 attendees to the new Convention Center in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The event incorporates *INTERPHEX Puerto Rico* and *MEDICAL DEVICE Puerto Rico*, two shows which provide education and demonstrations on the latest technologies used in the development, manufacturing and packaging of pharmaceutical and medical device products. In addition, *Supply & Chain Puerto Rico* is a new show designed for professionals sourcing solutions and technology for procurement, inventory management, warehousing, material handling and transportation for a variety of industries, including the medical and pharmaceutical fields.

“Puerto Rico is considered a powerhouse in the medical and pharmaceutical manufacturing industry, with the Island’s pharmaceutical plants manufacturing 14 of the top 20 medications consumed in the mainland. Hosting this event demonstrates how the new Puerto Rico Convention Center can provide benefits to the various industries throughout the Island to serve as a premier gathering place for industry professionals,” stated Ana María Viscasillas, president & CEO, Puerto Rico Convention Bureau. “The pharmaceutical industry and its related fields are one of the top markets that we look to attract to Puerto Rico and the new Center, especially as we continue to grow as a leader in medical and pharmaceutical manufacturing and a center for life sciences.”

With the move to the new Puerto Rico Convention Center, the total exhibit size for the event has grown from just over 17,600 net square feet to 57,100 net square feet, providing the ability for exhibitors to bring machinery and large equipment to the Center for demonstration purposes. With more than 400 exhibitors – up from 276 in the previous year, hosting three shows simultaneously provides the opportunity for attendees to visit three exhibit floors with one registration, offering the chance to garner information from a broader spectrum of potential partners. In addition to the exhibitions, each show offers a dedicated educational program on key subject areas pertaining to the pharmaceutical, medical device, and supply and chain industry.

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PRCC Site of INTERPHEX Puerto Rico.../2

The event is one of the first major gatherings and the first pharmaceutical group to be hosted at the Center since its opening in November 2005. The Puerto Rico Convention Center is the largest in the Caribbean and the most technologically-advanced facility of its kind in the Caribbean and Latin America.

“We are thrilled to bring the INTERPHEX Puerto Rico, MEDICAL DEVICE Puerto Rico and Supply Chain & Logistics Puerto Rico events to the new Puerto Rico Convention Center,” stated Kevin Richards, vice president, Reed Exhibitions, the event’s producers. “The move to the Center has enabled these events to thrive, offering the Island’s industry professionals the opportunity to see more exhibitors, larger displays of equipment and expanded educational offerings that enable them to increase their productivity and stimulate economic activity on the Island.”

These three shows represent an estimated economic impact of more than \$712,500 to Puerto Rico’s local economy, with 1,900 roomnights booked at the Caribe Hilton, which is serving at the event’s headquarter hotel. In addition, the Bureau has provided special support to the group in securing transportation, expediting clearance of the material and equipment of the exhibitors, and providing convention assistants, among others.

The new 580,000 square foot (53,882 meters) Puerto Rico Convention Center is a \$415 million facility located in San Juan. The largest of its kind in the Caribbean, the new Center is able to host up to 10,000 delegates, representing a new era in the Island’s tourism history with an ability to host groups never before able to consider the destination due to lack of facilities.

The new Puerto Rico Convention Center features a 152,700 sq. ft. (14,186 sq. m.) exhibition hall dividable into three individual exposition spaces, as well as a 39,500 sq. ft (3,670 sq. m.) Grand Ballroom, the largest in the Caribbean. The Center also offers 36,400 sq. ft. (3,363 sq. m.) of meeting space, including 15 separate meeting rooms on two levels, which can be divided into 28 breakout rooms.

As the most technologically-advanced facility of its kind in the Caribbean and Latin America, the new Puerto Rico Convention Center features full fiber optic broadband and wireless Internet access, video-conferencing, satellite up-link and down-link capabilities and more. The Center also includes design elements which highlight the welcoming natural elements of the Caribbean. With a 13-story glass wall, the Center features unobstructed ocean and harbor views, is flooded with ample natural light throughout the public spaces and is topped off by its distinctive wave-like rooftop.

Currently the new Puerto Rico Convention Center has more than 70 events scheduled through 2010. It is anticipated that the Center will generate over \$300 million annually for Puerto Rico’s local economy.

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For more information about INTERPHEX Puerto Rico MEDICAL DEVICE Puerto Rico and Supply Chain & Logistics Puerto Rico, visit [www.interphexpuertorico.com](http://www.interphexpuertorico.com), [www.medicaldevicepuertorico.com](http://www.medicaldevicepuertorico.com) or [supplychainpuertorico.com](http://supplychainpuertorico.com). For further information about the Puerto Rico Convention Center or for details on upcoming events at the facility, visit [www.prconvention.com](http://www.prconvention.com).

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***Editor's Note:***

The Puerto Rico Convention Bureau is the official marketing and sales agent for the Puerto Rico Convention Center at the Puerto Rico Convention Center District. The Puerto Rico Convention Center opened in November 2005 and is the largest facility of its kind in the Caribbean and the most technologically-advanced in the Caribbean and Latin America. For more information, visit [www.prconvention.com](http://www.prconvention.com). The Puerto Rico Convention Bureau is a non-profit organization responsible for promoting and developing group and convention business to Puerto Rico through an integrated marketing strategy for more than 40 years. Based in San Juan, with offices in Chicago, Miami, New York, and Washington D.C., the Puerto Rico Convention Bureau provides sales consultation services to meeting planners in the corporate, incentive and association markets. The Bureau contributes approximately \$92 million annually to the Island's economy. For more information, visit the Bureau's Internet page at [www.meetpuertorico.com](http://www.meetpuertorico.com) or send a message at [info@prcb.org](mailto:info@prcb.org). The Puerto Rico Convention Bureau, representing the capital city of San Juan, is a member of BestCities, a global alliance of Bureaus that represent the highest standards of service in the meetings and convention industry. For more information, visit [www.bestcities.net](http://www.bestcities.net).

High resolution images of the Puerto Rico Convention Center construction and architectural renderings are available upon request.

