



CARIBBEAN ^{BIG} BUSINESS

PROFILES

PHARMACEUTICAL & HEALTH INDUSTRY

Pharmaceutical industry can help small manufacturers

BY INDA M. RODRÍGUEZ

Pharmaceutical companies make up one of the strongest industries in Puerto Rico and can certainly help small manufacturers improve the quality of their operations.

“Through its multiple resources, the pharmaceutical industry could help small, local manufacturers come up with innovative organizational strategies, ensure continuous improvement and improve packaging, labeling and quality processes,” said Migdalia Rosado, executive director of Puerto Rico Manufacturing Extension (Primex).

Primex is an organization focused on helping local small-and-midsize companies get leaner, not in terms of size, but rather in operational efficiency and productivity.

The pharmaceutical industry constantly subjects its suppliers to a rigorous auditing process to make sure their dynamics, inventory and processes are in optimal conditions.

“However, it would be a good idea for the pharmaceuticals to back them up with technical support and expertise to help them fine tune their processes and then audit them,” Rosado said. “What pharmaceutical companies have to understand is that if they engage in this kind of initiative with small manufacturers, they would benefit tremendously from it.”

For example, if a company’s inventory control system is in sync with that of the pharmaceutical company, it will translate into greater efficiency, faster processes and significant cost reductions.

“This way pharmaceuticals will add value to their supply chain and will contribute to making our local manufacturers stronger and more competitive compared with foreign suppliers,” Rosado said.

“In difficult economic times like these, when everybody needs to cut



*Migdalia Rosado,
executive director
of Puerto Rico
Manufacturing Extension
(Primex)*

back on costs, explore exporting opportunities, improve their supply chain, improve human resources and increase sales, the solution rests on collaboration. In unity we are stronger,” she said.

“If pharmaceutical companies collaborate with small manufacturers it will render positive results for both parties in the end,” said Rosado, stressing this collaboration message is what Primex always intends to deliver.

Rosado added government could play a key role in making this happen by providing incentives to those pharmaceuticals that engage in such collaboration deals.

Rosado says Primex’s mission is to strengthen the manufacturing sector, which is the local economy’s driving force. Part of that is Primex’s focus on improving the

processes of the smaller members of the supply chain to create an ultimately positive effect on the larger manufacturers’ processes and strengthen the sector’s overall competitiveness on a global level.

“We target our consulting services to the small and midsize enterprises

that don’t have the onsite resources to analyze their own processes,” said Rosado. “As these companies streamline their operations, they can continue to be an important source for the larger companies they serve, and continue to expand their export opportunities.” ■

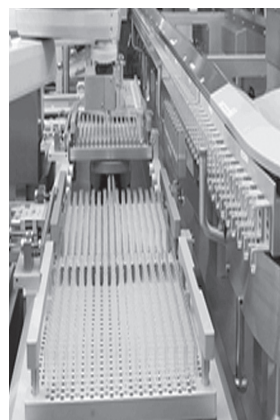


PRIMEX
PUERTO RICO MANUFACTURING EXTENSION

**The #1 Experts
for Improving People,
Processes and
Performance**

For more than a decade, PRIMEX has focused on increasing the competitiveness of Puerto Rico’s industrial base.

We have improved processes, reduced costs and transformed many Puerto Rico’s enterprises.



EXPERTS BECAUSE:

- We are part of the US Department of Commerce under the Manufacturers Extension Partnership Program (NIST/MEP)
- Our professionals are certified in Lean Bronze, Lean Healthcare, Lean Accounting, Lean Pharma and Black Belt Six Sigma from SME, ASQC and NIST/MEP University.
- We use the most effective plant simulation workshop - for improving processes
- These workshops help us address other improvement opportunities
- Our services are requested throughout the Caribbean & Latin America.

WE STAND OUT FOR:

- Being part of the largest (non-profit) consulting network in the U.S. for small and mid-size companies.
- Having access to more than 1,600 resources in terms of technology, innovation, processes, quality, etc.
- Analyzing, facilitating and implementing solutions.
- Offering the most cost-effective services in Puerto Rico.
- Economic impact driven.

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

787-756-0505

www.primexpr.org

www.mep.nist.gov

