

Top Tech Companies

The Cervantes Group rises with its 'make it happen' mantra

BY MARIO BELAVAL DÍAZ

Founded in 2004, The Cervantes Group has made a name for itself as an effective provider of technology-services talent for the major segments of Puerto Rico's economy, specifically healthcare, banking and pharmaceuticals.

As the only company on the island to appear on Inc. magazine's 2011 list (at No. 1,465) of the prestigious 500/5,000 fastest-growing private companies in the U.S., The Cervantes Group was also last year's recipient of the Teodoro Moscoso Award, considered the equivalent to the Young Company of the Year, which was personally presented by Gov. Luis Fortuño and the Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce.

"You can't imagine the pride and happiness I felt when we received this award. I was humbled and so proud of our team that made this happen," stated Joanna Bauzá, co-founder & president of The Cervantes Group.

"This year, we have concentrated our efforts following our mantra of 'making it happen,'" Bauzá said. "We just continue to find high-quality talent and expertise in Puerto Rico, because that is what is expected. Through our team's technology prowess, we leverage our project-management leaders, as well as our bank of highly qualified business-process engineering and custom-application development consultants."

With its corporate office in San Juan and other locations in Chicago, Boston and a Miami office to open in January 2013, The Cervantes Group is poised for another record year. Bauzá, who has more than 14 years' experience in the industry, has a bachelor's degree in business, in management information systems, from Marquette University and a master's in business administration from DePaul University in e-business & entrepreneurship. She has pioneered The Cervantes Group's corporate technical platform and processes, created technical proficiency tests for many application and web-based services, manages the company website, and instituted the Project Management Office (PMO).



Melissa Colón, business associate lead; Pedro Rial, director; and Joanna Bauzá, president

"Success in IT [information technology] project-based services and talent acquisition is due to a proactive approach, as well as being responsible to our clients and adding a personalized touch," said Pedro Rial, director of The Cervantes Group's different locations.

These reasons have led the company to grow, over the past three years, by about 240% in the three cities it has offices. Although originally from Pontevedra, Spain, Rial has more than 18 years' experience in the technology sector, having worked with specialized technology for business-

to-business and global 1,000 companies, but what is most important are the "experiences" of his career.

"I have visited over 35 countries, lived in six, and have come to realize that it is humanity, or more accurately, its people, who make the world round. I live each day the best I can, and constantly strive to be better in both my professional and personal life. I take what we do here very seriously, and I love it." However, Rial added why he believes his team has been successful: "We just execute. We don't talk about what we are going to do; we just do. Our results speak for themselves. Trust me; it isn't me—it is my team."

The Cervantes Group keeps on track with its values and the ideals of its mission. Its growth is unprecedented and the reasons for its success are varied, but Rial has some ideas. "Locally, this success carries even more meaning. We believe midsize enterprises and the large Puerto Rico-based private corporations are driving the economy's recovery, and since we are committed to Puerto Rico's success, we are proud that through our business resources and solutions, we can help."

Melissa Colón, business associate lead, has been working with The Cervantes Group since 2005, and is a pivotal part of The Cervantes Group team. She started working while finishing her bachelor's degree, and now wears so many hats in the organization that it is a wonder she can do it all. "From human resources to administration and accounting, Melissa has a great attitude, a willingness to learn and grow, and has exceptional aptitude. She never says no; she just finds a way to make it happen. We love that about her," Bauzá states very matter-of-factly, looking off to the side as if pondering what she is saying.

Rial added, "The fact is, we are always looking for the smartest, hardworking, team-oriented individuals to join an environment where they can thrive using technology and one secret ingredient—passion!" We have no doubt The Cervantes Group will continue its consistent track record. ■

VIVE LA EXPERIENCIA DE SER UN WINE EXPERT
Y PODRÁS GANAR UN IPAD

* DESCARGA ESTA APP DESDE TU SMARTPHONE
www.marquesdecasaconcha.com



Importado por Ballester Hnos., Inc. San Juan PR 13.5% Alc./Vol.

MARQUES
de
CASA CONCHA
— TIMELESS HERITAGE —