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Lauderdale architect planning Spanish resort

by Doreen Hemlock
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Add another European contract to the roster for Fort Lauderdale-based design architects EDSA, formerly known as Edward D. Stone & Associates.



The design company is finalizing the master plan for a 5,000-acre tourism project in Murcia, Spain -- one of the largest resort developments in Europe.

EDSA, together with the Spain office of Carmel, Calif.-based Landmark Land Co., said it was selected over 20 other competitors in an international design competition.

The Marina de Cope project will cater to 20,000 hotel guests with 9,000 residential units and two mixed-use town centers -- a marina village entertainment district and a cultural civic center. It also will offer a sports complex to include five golf courses, tennis, soccer, cricket and polo, the company announced in a statement.

EDSA also said it partnered with Gainesville-based Applied Technology & Management Inc. to add a 69-acre marina with 2,000 slips to the project.

Plans call for construction of the \$4 billion-plus resort project in southeastern Spain to start in 2007 and take 15 years to complete.

In addition to finishing the master plan, EDSA said it also expects to work with consultants on urban, environmental and other impact studies to help get the resort completed.

Started in 1960, EDSA now employs more than 190 people worldwide, with offices in Fort Lauderdale, Orlando, Los Angeles and Baltimore as well as Beijing, China.

Events

The presidents of Nicaragua and Honduras and the prime minister of St. Lucia are among speakers confirmed for the annual Miami Conference on the Caribbean Basin set for tonight through Wednesday at the Inter-Continental Hotel in downtown Miami.

Nicaraguan President Enrique Bolaños is expected to address opportunities under the new U.S.-Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement, when he speaks at a dinner tonight.

For information on the conference organized by Washington, D.C.-based Caribbean/Central American Action, check the www.c-caa.org or call 202-466-7464.

The Association of Bi-National Chambers of Commerce in Florida is organizing a lunch Dec. 9 at noon with Jose Piñera, co-chairman of the Cato Institute's Project for Social Security Choice on the topic: "How Chile reinvented Social Security 25 years ago."

Piñera, as Chile's minister of labor and social security, helped Chile privatize its pension system. He now works with the libertarian Cato Institute, based in Washington, D.C., advising governments on pension

system reforms.

The lunch is set for the Bankers Club at 1 Biscayne Tower in downtown Miami. For information, call 305-365-7247.

Updates

Rising oil prices are putting a strain on government budgets in oil-importing nations in the Caribbean, a top trade partner for South Florida.

St. Kitts-Nevis estimates a 2 percent rise in government outlays from the higher oil prices, making it harder to fund education and other programs.

>Congress is considering a bill to create a special trade prosecutor to bring complaints before the World Trade Organization against countries violating trade laws.

Bipartisan legislation has been introduced in both the House and Senate by veteran legislators from Michigan, South Carolina and Indiana.

"We need to get tougher with countries that are illegally subsidizing their products, ignoring patent laws or otherwise breaking the law. The failure to do so is costing U.S. jobs," said Rep. Dave Camp, R-Mich., who introduced the House bill with Michigan Democrat Sander Levin. Both cited China and Japan as potential targets.

The special trade prosecutor would work with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

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