



October 2012

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Any milestone, especially one that is four decades in the making, is the ideal moment to look back and analyze both achievements that have been fulfilled and the obstacles that have been overcome. In our case, what was conceived as a small local publication for South Florida aimed at filling the Hispanic contractors' need for information evolved to become the main—and for almost 40 years, the only—pan-regional publication dedicated exclusively to the Latin American construction sector.

Throughout the last 40 years, we have witnessed the development of major construction and infrastructure projects in the region. In 1974, when we recognized this unexplored niche, the first hotel was opened in a new resort town that was considered by many as ambitious and crazy. Forty years later, that urban model is known as one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world, Cancun, Mexico. Still today it remains to be a great accomplishment for the Latin American construction sector.

During this long journey, Construcción Pan-Americana has been witness to innumerable and notable projects in Latin America. From massive dump sites turning into exclusive residential areas (such as Colonia Santa Fe in Mexico City) to the Itaipu Dam (which was opened in 1974 as well), the Medellin Subway or the expansion of the Panama Canal. We have also had the opportunity to report on numerous projects that aim to improve the lives of many inhabitants of the region ranging from new sewage systems, infrastructure projects to public housing developments. This has created a boom in the region that has outlasted the economic downturn that has affected the rest of the world so intensely. According to the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM), Central and South America increased purchases of US-made construction machinery by 16% and 6%, respectively, in the first half of 2012 compared to the same period in 2011.

During the last forty years we have truly enjoyed working as a close knit family with our trusted and beloved staff present and past. We also recognize the steadfast loyalty of all of our advertisers that have been alongside us throughout this journey. We would like to honor all of you with the release of this special commemorative issue. Thanks to you, Construcción Pan-Americana has been present in the homes, offices and worksites of thousands of professionals in over 20 countries. We invite you enjoy this special issue with us.

We offer you our most sincere thanks and enthusiastically look forward to the next forty years!

Regards,

Luis Suao
Publisher