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Pearson Partners International Expands Presence in Florida: Acquires Tampa-based Meridian Partners and Opens Miami Office

*Executive Search Veterans Walter Baker and Eduardo Comella Join Team
to Meet Growing Demand for International Search Assignments*

(DALLAS & MIAMI – May 17, 2011) – [Pearson Partners International](#), a retained executive search and management assessment firm, announces key growth in Florida with the opening of a Miami office and the acquisition of Meridian Partners, LLC in Tampa. Walter Baker, co-founder of Meridian Partners, and Eduardo Comella, former partner of Prolaurum USA / president of CCG Group, have joined the Pearson team and office in Miami.

“While we have had strength in Europe and Asia through our partnership with Neumann International, the addition of Walter and Eduardo to our team will give us added reach in the southeast United States as well as Latin America, Europe and the Middle East,” said Keith Pearson, president and vice chairman of Pearson Partners. “This expansion, combined with Neumann’s 30-plus offices across Europe and Asia, will further extend our global footprint.”

[Walter Baker](#) brings over twenty years of retained executive search experience, primarily for multinational clients in the technology, industrial, consumer and not-for-profit markets. Earlier in his career he gained sales and marketing experience at MCI Communications and Ralston Purina. Over 75% of his business derives from repeat clients, and 70% of his work is for executive positions at the vice president level and above. Baker served on the AESC Council of America and is active in organizations in Tampa and Miami.

Baker said, “Bob Pearson and I have had a long relationship for over twenty years, formed when he was the CEO of Lamalie Associates, then the third largest and fastest growing executive search firm and the first to go public. I knew that the strategies that I built at Meridian would dovetail well with the Pearson Partners’ philosophy.”

[Eduardo Comella](#) was previously partner and managing director at Prolaurum USA / CCG Group, a retained global executive search firm that was ranked number one in South Florida based on average salary of placements in three of the last four years. Comella specializes in the financial services industry, focusing mainly in the United States, Latin America, Europe and the Middle East. He has vast experience in the field of human capital management, supported by thirty years in executive human resources positions at Citigroup International, Schering-Plough Corporation and Abbott Laboratories, performed in three regions of the world.

“I am delighted to join Pearson Partners International; we share the same client service values and strong executive search professional practices. The Miami office will serve as the hub for our business in Latin America as well as the link with our partners in Europe to serve our clients internationally.”

About Pearson Partners International

Based in Dallas, Texas, Pearson Partners International is a retained executive search firm that helps companies in all industries recruit and retain top talent, from middle management to the board room. In addition, Pearson

Partners offers employee assessment and coaching services. The firm serves clients in the Americas, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. For information, visit www.PearsonPartnersIntl.com or call 214-292-4130.

Pearson Partners was founded by industry veteran [Robert Pearson](#), previous chairman and CEO of LAI (Lamalie) Worldwide—one of the largest and fastest growing publicly traded executive search firms in the world. At Pearson Partners, Bob has assembled a team of professionals who love what they do and bring more than 130 combined years of diverse, results-oriented retained executive search experience.

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