

PRENT COSTA RICA EXPERIENCES RECORD GROWTH



Since it opened its doors in 2014, Costa Rica has helped existing Prent customers and new customers reduce the total cost of their products by producing parts locally. The demand for Prent's high-quality medical packaging is growing and Costa Rica is rising to the challenge of fulfillment.

"Costa Rica is a great option for near-shoring production. The country has a well-educated and stable workforce," says Prent Senior VP of Satellite Manufacturing Mark Rothlisberger. "Many of the Prent Costa Rica team members have been with us since we opened the doors over 10 years ago."

"And, with the free-trade regime targeted at the medical device market, tax rates are low and Prent has been able to grow with our medical device partners in the country," Rothlisberger said.

Prent customers utilizing the Costa Rica facility receive high-quality medical packaging from an experienced workforce. Prent also saves its customers expensive, time-consuming packaging validation expenses. And, Prent helps reduce customer packaging inventory and freight costs, freeing up valuable space for additional device manufacturing, while customizing a delivery schedule based on customers' needs.

"As we continue to grow, Prent is working on plans for expansion into a new, larger facility," Rothlisberger said. "We will maintain our location central to the free-trade parks where our customers are expanding as well. This will allow Prent to continue to provide exceptional, local service to the medical device industry in Costa Rica."



PRENT INNOVATION CENTER UNDERWAY

Prent is building a brand new, state-of-the-art Innovation Center adjacent to its Janesville Headquarters that is scheduled to be fully operational in September 2024. "We are excited to announce this new addition that promises to be the most technologically advanced design and tool facility in the world," says Prent VP of Product Development Don Handrow. "The new building will enhance the design of thermoform parts, and the engineering and building of thermoform tools."

The building is designed to meet customer demand with the first floor housing multiple five-axis CNC machine tools; an LPS system for lights-out tool production; additional five-axis CNC machine tools for modeling; multiple long-format, three-axis CNC machine tools, each with an integrated pallet system for additional lights-out production; a sample department; and CNC programming, tool assembly, and polishing areas.

Prent designers, tool design engineers, and support staff will occupy the second floor. "The entire design development team will move into the new building, which will streamline Prent's operations considerably," says Handrow. "Collaboration and lead time will be remarkably condensed since the teams won't be handing anything over walls or through doors. We'll capitalize on collaborative opportunities by participating in design and tool building decisions without delay. We are also excited about the future growth for new projects and tooling," he said.

Prent customers will also be able to tour the facility next fall. Check out Prent's social media for updates as the project progresses.

INNOVATION CENTER AREAS OF FOCUS

- TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT AND AUTOMATION
- FIVE-AXIS MACHINING
- LIGHTS-OUT OPERATION THROUGH AUTOMATION ON ALL MACHINING PLATFORMS
- INCREASED TOOLING SPEED-TO-MARKET TO MEET OR EXCEED CUSTOMER NEEDS
- FUTURE GROWTH FOR NEW PROJECTS AND TOOLING

FOCUS ON
SUSTAINABILITY



PRENT JOINS THE HPRC

Prent Corporation recently joined the Healthcare Plastics Recycling Council (HPRC), a private, technical coalition of industry peers across healthcare, recycling, and waste management industries that seeks to improve the recyclability of plastic products within healthcare. For over five decades, Prent has offered its customers a multitude of sustainable products and solutions, including localizing its manufacturing facilities to reduce CO₂ emissions, using returnable shipping totes to reduce scrap packaging waste, and collaborating with its sister company GOEX to identify sustainable materials and qualifying material alternatives for its customers, to name a few.

“Prent’s involvement with HPRC will not only educate our internal teams, but will also allow us to engage on the front end of more sustainability efforts and projects,” says Prent Sales Manager Ryan Holsker. “Our existing systems, capabilities, and technology will enable Prent to spearhead sustainability efforts within HPRC and throughout the industry.”

For more information, visit hprc.org.

LET'S GET
TECHNICAL



3D PHOTO RENDERING TECHNOLOGY

Prent’s professional, high-resolution renderings create photo-realistic 3D images that allow medical device packaging solutions to be displayed in a life-like fashion. “The power of photo-realistic renderings is Prent’s ability to virtually represent its package design solutions along with the medical device in a realistic, 3D view quickly and accurately,” says Prent VP of Product Development Chris Bladl. “Photo-realistic visualization is a valuable tool for Prent designers to present highly realistic, artificial images based on a 3D CAD model that accurately portray the detail and characteristics that make a customer’s package unique.”

This technology gives Prent packaging designers the ability to involve the customer’s internal teams, such as sales and marketing, and external teams, such as nursing panels, to view and understand the packaging solution in advance. In turn, they can provide Prent designers and engineers with valuable feedback early in the design process before both Prent and the medical device manufacturer invest valuable time and money into production tooling. This helps speed up the entire package development process. For details, email sales@prent.com.

PRENT Philanthropy

PRENT INVESTS IN MANUFACTURING



Pictured left to right are Executive VP First Community Bank-Milton Dave Holterman, BTC President Dr. Tracy Pierner, Prent CEO and Chairman of the Board Joe Pregont, Prent Executive VP Rachel Andres, BTC Foundation Director Lisa Hurda, and Prent President of North America Joe Pregont II.

Prent Corporation recognizes the vital role that education plays in the growth and progress of the manufacturing industry, which is evident in its longstanding commitment to fostering innovation and supporting the development of the manufacturing workforce. This is exemplified by Prent’s partnership with Blackhawk Technical College (BTC) in Janesville, Wisconsin. By supporting educational institutions, Prent not only invests in the future of manufacturing but also in the prosperity of the communities it serves.

Prent recently donated \$250,000 to the BTC Foundation to fund a cutting-edge manufacturing lab space within the technical college’s new Innovative Manufacturing Education Center (IMEC). The announcement was made on October 18th during a groundbreaking ceremony for the new facility. Construction on the IMEC building has begun, with anticipated completion in the fall of 2024.

“The new manufacturing building is a testament to the college’s commitment to provide an exceptional education for the next generation of workers. It is within these walls that the future workforce will be educated, equipped, and empowered to meet the ever-evolving demands of our local manufacturing industries,” Prent Executive VP Rachel Andres said. “By consolidating the manufacturing programs in this advanced facility, the college has created a hub of innovation and excellence that will serve for future generations. This move not only allows students to access resources more efficiently but also fosters a collaborative environment where ideas are connected and new skills will be explored.”

“It is a strategic choice that shows Blackhawk Technical College’s dedication to preparing students for success by empowering them with the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in the manufacturing industry,” Andres said.

PRENT SUPPORTS UW-STOUT PACKAGING PROGRAM WITH UPGRADES AND DONATIONS

Prent has been a long-time supporter of the University of Wisconsin-Stout Packaging Program and is committed to ensuring those students pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in packaging are prepared to work in the industry after graduation. Recently, Prent Headquarters donated and shipped a robot and conveyors to UW-Stout's Packaging Machinery Lab for an automation line so students can have real-life experiences with equipment they will see in their careers.

Prent also funded upgrades to the UW-Stout campus laboratory through a partnership with Belco Packaging Systems, Inc., which provided the University with a substantial discount for a sealing machine and a shrink tunnel, according to Prent VP of Product Development Don Handrow. "Industry partners continue to be the backbone of the UW-Stout packaging program," Handrow said.

These recent contributions are in addition to Prent's \$1 million donation to establish the Prent Packaging Lab in 2018 and its annual scholarships for packaging students. Prent has also employed more than 100 UW-Stout graduates over the last 25 years and provided internships and co-op employment for over 70 UW-Stout students.

PRENT SPONSORS PACK JAM 2024

On April 7-9, UW-Stout will host "Pack Jam" (short for Packaging Jamboree). Prent will be a Diamond Level sponsor for this annual, three-day, student-led conference that connects hundreds of packaging students from a dozen colleges with industry professionals (like Prent). Attendees will be able to participate in both social and educational events. Make sure to check the next issue for more details.

PRENT DENMARK WINS A NATIONAL AWARD



Prent's positive development in Europe has garnered national recognition. Prent Denmark was recently announced as one of this year's Gazelle award-winning companies. The prize is awarded to companies that have created a substantial amount of exponential growth, and the reward is an indicator that the company is among the fastest growing and well-performing companies in Denmark. The accolade is presented by the leading Denmark business newspaper, *Boersen*, and the gazelle has become part of the Danish language as a synonym for growth. (Pictured are Prent Denmark Managing Director Peter Bay (far left) and President and CEO of Prent Eurasia Bjarne Uhde Nielsen.)

STOP BY A PRENT BOOTH AT THESE 2024 TRADE SHOWS

02 MD&M WEST
06 February 6-8, 2024
24 Anaheim, California
Booth #2133 (GOEX Booth #2227)

05 DEVICE TALKS BOSTON
01 May 1-2, 2024
24 Boston, Massachusetts
Booth #608

05 PACKOUT
14 May 14-16
24 Coronado Bay, California



15 YEARS OF GIFTS

2023 marks the 15th year that Prent has donated Christmas presents to over 100 children at Wilson Elementary School in Janesville, WI. Prent staff did the shopping and even contributed their own money toward the gifts for the children.

Pictured above are a Prent van full of presents and Prent Retiree Mitch Benson, Prent Executive Assistant Ashley Vilbrandt, and Prent Retiree Ron Steurer.

Congratulations!



EMPLOYEES CELEBRATE 40 YEARS

Not one... not two... but THREE Prent Janesville employees were recently recognized for 40 years of service. Congratulations to Dean Ellison, Diane Parr, and Penny Pierce (pictured above from left to right) on this remarkable achievement! Prent also honored employees celebrating anywhere from five to 35 years of service. (Listed on the other side.)

Prent proudly celebrates the dedication, hard work and commitment of every one of its employees!

PRENT CHINA UPGRADES CLEAN ROOM TO CLASS 7 TO MEET CUSTOMER DEMAND



Prent recently upgraded another medical clean room from Class 8 to Class 7 at its Shanghai facility to better accommodate China's medical device industry growth. Upgrading the additional medical clean room to Class 7 has helped expand Prent China's production capacity to meet increased customer demand.

Prent China's manufacturing team laid out its objectives and began the clean

room upgrade during the summer of 2023. The team studied and evaluated specific requirements for compliance with ISO 14644-1 Class 7 and YY0033-T 10K clean room standards. The upgrade included replacing HEPA filters, ceiling board, and lighting; improving air circulation; sealing any leaks; and ensuring proper air pressure differentials. The clean room length

was also extended to accommodate a material loading station and catered for the second long P72 former, which can produce a 1.8 meter (70") medical tray. The clean room upgrade process passed a third-party clean room certification which involved ISO 14644-two specific tests for particle counting, air velocity measurements, positive pressure, and humidity/temperature.



On November 13-16, Prent exhibited at COMPAMED in Düsseldorf, Germany. Prent's entire European team was available to discuss new custom thermoformed medical device and pharmaceutical projects with customers attending the event.



Prent showed appreciation for its hard-working employees in Flagstaff, Arizona and Janesville, Wisconsin with turkeys in time for Thanksgiving. With safety always top of mind, Prent Arizona employee Gina Russell even secured hers in a child seat for the ride home.



It was the season of giving again at Prent Headquarters this Christmas. In December, Prent Janesville employees donated presents to over 60 local children at HeadStart, a county-wide, federally funded preschool/family program serving three- to five-year-olds.



Prent Headquarters celebrated Christmas in December with a gathering of over 500 employees and guests at the Janesville Country Club. Attendees enjoyed fellowship, food, holiday cheer, and even a few festive sweaters, at this year's party.



In October, Prent Puerto Rico held Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training for its Safety Brigade. Fourteen employees from all areas and shifts learned the tools necessary to create a safer work environment.



Prent China hosted 400 employees in October in Shanghai at its first employee party since 2020. The management team (at left) thanked employees for their strong teamwork, dedication, and commitment to success despite various challenges during the pandemic.

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

30 YEARS

Daryl Good Janesville

25 YEARS

Glenda Pecaro Janesville

David Shanks Janesville

Scott Shepherd Janesville

15 YEARS

Shawn Buck Janesville

Alan Callies Janesville

Kelly Ceranski Janesville

Jesse Winker Janesville

10 YEARS

Elsa Arnfredsdottir Denmark

Shaojin Bai China

Lana Lavelle Janesville

Rongtao Li China

Yueling Shi China

Penni Stevens Janesville

Brenda Waite Janesville

Xiufang Zhao China

5 YEARS

Elvia Arellano Janesville

Ahmad Faez Bin Zailan Malaysia

Dalilah Binti Elias Malaysia

Fatin Zalila Binti Rozali Malaysia

Heather Dieckhoff Janesville

Dongli Jia China

Brian Kuhns Janesville

Siew Ping Lim Malaysia

Hayley Livingston Arizona

Katherine Orengo Puerto Rico

Corrine Tan Malaysia

Francisco Toro Puerto Rico

Jennifer Traynor Janesville

Gabriel Vazquez Puerto Rico

Tini Sakila Malaysia

PRENT

People



“COSTA RICA IS A GREAT OPTION FOR NEAR-SHORING PRODUCTION. THE COUNTRY HAS A WELL-EDUCATED AND STABLE WORKFORCE.” (Read more on the front page.)

—MARK ROTHLSBERGER, PRENT SENIOR VP OF SATELLITE MANUFACTURING



“PHOTO-REALISTIC VISUALIZATION IS A VALUABLE TOOL FOR PRENT DESIGNERS TO PRESENT HIGHLY REALISTIC, ARTIFICIAL IMAGES.” (Read more in “Let’s Get Technical.”)

—CHRIS BLADL, PRENT VP OF PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

Meet Our Prent Employee

Julia Constantinescu
Prent Denmark Quality Manager

Q: How long have you worked at Prent Denmark?

A: I will be celebrating my 10-year anniversary in May 2024.

Q: What positions have you held at Prent Denmark?

A: I started working part time as measuring support for validation and Process Capabilities studies for the QA department and was afterwards offered a QC inspector position within the same department.

In 2018, I was promoted to Quality Assurance Supervisor and, in January 2023, I was promoted to QA/QC Professional.

Q: What is your title and what are your current responsibilities?

A: In August 2023, I was promoted to the Quality Manager position for Prent Denmark. I am responsible for the overall quality department, including the coordination of eight Prent team members.

Q: Where were you born?

A: I was born and raised in Iassy, Romania.

Q: What is your educational background and work history?

A: I studied four years of engineering in the food industry. But, parallel to the first two years I was at the university, I also studied quality control in food products.

Soon after graduating, I moved to Denmark and Prent is the place where I developed professionally.

Q: What do you like best about working at Prent Denmark?

A: I enjoy my job at Prent every day! I enjoy the daily quality challenges, thermoforming process, communication with our customers and suppliers, and the interaction with our auditors. On top of that, the teamwork at Prent Denmark is what makes my job even more gratifying!

Q: What do you like to do outside of your time at Prent?

I love to travel to see different cultures and experience new things. I choose warm vacation destinations almost all the time.

A: Is there a fun fact about you that you'd like to share?

Actually, there is nothing fun about me. I am pragmatic, dedicated, and stubborn in order to make things work rather than give up!



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PRENT NORTH AMERICA ATTENDS MANUFACTURING SUMMIT

On October 11-13, Prent’s manufacturing leaders across North America came together at its Janesville, Wisconsin Headquarters to focus on corporate culture and values. “When leadership comes together, great things happen,” says Senior VP of Manufacturing Dave Hiller. “The summit gave our manufacturing leaders the opportunity to share ideas on leadership standards and structured communications.”

Prent’s focus on culture and values creates a positive ripple effect throughout the organization, resulting in excellence in manufacturing and quality. It leads to a more engaged, motivated, and aligned workforce that is committed to excellence in manufacturing and quality. “People and culture are the foundation of everything Prent does. This enables our manufacturing teams to continually improve, which ultimately benefits all of our customers,” Hiller said.

PRENT TEXAS FACILITY ON TARGET FOR 2024

Construction of Prent’s El Paso, Texas facility continues at a brisk pace, says Prent Senior VP of Satellite Manufacturing Mark Rothlisberger. “The clean room is taking shape and on schedule to be completed in late April 2024,” he said. “Prent is currently building thermoformers to install in the new facility, staff are being hired and trained, and production will be ready to commence in the beginning of summer 2024.”

Like other Prent facilities, the new facility will be ISO 13485 certified and include certified class 7 clean room manufacturing and thermoform equipment designed and built by Prent. The identical Prent equipment allows for seamless tool transfers while mitigating risk to customers. Prent is also prioritizing sustainability in its construction with innovative plumbing recycling systems. This will enable the facility to reuse nearly all of its water from manufacturing operations, significantly reducing the overall water consumption. Stay tuned for more updates from Prent on this new facility!

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE PRESIDENT



Every year, the holiday season seems to approach faster than we planned. For many companies, closing out the last quarter of the year and preparing new initiatives and goals for the new year can be somewhat frenetic. During this busy season, I sincerely hope that you are all able to enjoy valuable time with loved ones over the holidays.

All of us at Prent are extremely proud to celebrate another incredible year filled with innovation and growth. Not only were we recognized this year with prominent awards, including the National Gazelle Award in Demark and our 19th AmeriStar award, but we also continue to grow our team, equipment, capabilities, and locations, including the addition of El Paso, Texas to our global network. We have seen tremendous growth in a few

sites including Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, Baja, and Denmark as well. Prent continues to support educational endeavors to ensure manufacturing workforce needs are being met. We also continue to utilize our existing systems, capabilities, technology, and new partnerships, such as the HPRC, to spearhead sustainability efforts in our industry—all of which you’ll read more about in this issue of **NEWSPRENT**.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all of our Prent employees for their dedication, support, and commitment to our customers. And, we thank our valued customers for their continued confidence in our people and our company. Everyone at Prent wishes you a Merry Christmas and joy, peace, and prosperity throughout the new year. We look forward to serving you in 2024!

—Joe Pregont II, Prent President of North America

CONTACT PRENT

NEWSPRENT is published and distributed through Prent’s World Headquarters in Wisconsin. To be included on the mailing list, please call (608) 754-0276. For more information about Prent Corporation, please visit prent.com. This issue is printed on material produced by Prent’s sister company GOEX Corporation. To learn about plastic sheet or roll stock options for your project, please visit goex.com.



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