

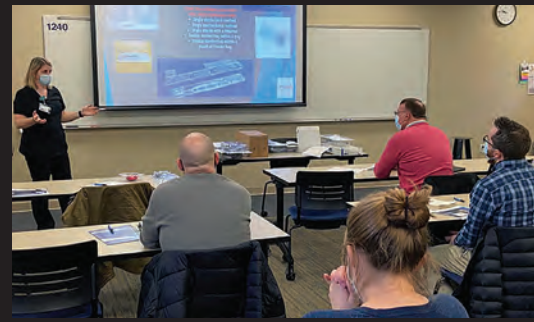
NEWSPRENT

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prent.com



Prent Partners with Blackhawk Technical College to Ensure Compliance with Updated ISO 11607 Standards

Updates to International Organization for Standardization (ISO) compliance for the sterile barrier and packaging systems of medical devices prompted Prent Janesville to reach out to Blackhawk Technical College (BTC) last year to discuss a partnership between its product development team and BTC's Exceptional Surgical Technology Program.

Prent has enjoyed a long-standing partnership with BTC for its workforce and training needs. "Knowing that BTC has an exceptional nursing program, we reached out to Director of Workforce and Community Development Mark Borowicz to begin the conversation about expanding our partnership," Prent Senior VP of Sales Tom Schaffner said. "Prent continues to design packaging that is handled by nurses every day. Access to BTC's nurses-in-training and its wonderful lab helped us align efforts to develop training for our designers to receive a hands-on experience in a surgical setting to aid in design for updated ISO 11607 standards."

This unique opportunity provided the Prent team members with a better understanding of the aseptic presentation from a circulating nurse to a sterile nurse. How a medical device package is handled, how it's opened, and how it's discarded is all incredibly important to our customers, so this is definitely a great resource for our team, Schaffner explained.

"Medical device packaging has evolved with a more concerted, documented emphasis on sterile barrier packaging. Thus, it has become a big topic of conversation with Prent customers since usability for the packaging is now a requirement. This means that all our healthcare customers now need to

assess how packaging is handled by the end user (nursing staff), and specifically how a package/product is transferred from a dirty environment to a clean (sterile) one—also known as aseptic presentation. We felt we needed to increase our awareness and educate ourselves further, which this training accomplishes," Schaffner said.

Each session includes a classroom lecture, an operating room observation, and hands-on training. Sessions are designed to include eight Prent Team members and two BTC nurses-in-training, along with BTC Surgical Technology Program Director/Clinical Coordinator Heather Gray.



Gray created classroom content so Prent designers could learn nursing terminology, receive an overview of the central supply room, and gain a better understanding of the aseptic presentation, according to Schaffner.

"We had the opportunity to observe nursing students in a surgical setting where they educated us on the guidelines of the aseptic presentation. And then the best portion was that our team had the opportunity to gown up and were able to evaluate many types of sterile barrier packaging by conducting the aseptic presentation," Schaffner said. *(continued on back page)*

PRENT

Prestige

Prent Sponsors New Conference

This May 10-12, Prent Janesville representatives will be in Austin, Texas at the[PACK]out™ conference for healthcare packaging professionals, engineers, and suppliers. Prent Corporation is a proud, first-time Diamond Level sponsor of this year's premiere event.

"This conference is a new format, specifically geared toward packaging experts in the industry, so it made great sense for Prent to be a part of it based on the quality of the content and the industry professionals who are presenting," Prent VP of Product Development Don Handrow said. "The event is less about advertising participating corporations and more about the collaboration and education with what appears to be new and relevant material, so we are excited to be a part of it."

For details about the speakers and content, visit thepackout.com/program-agenda/.

Say "hello" to a Prent Janesville representative at the[PACK]out™ conference in Austin, or stop by a Prent booth at any of these upcoming 2022 trade shows around the globe:

UNITED STATES TRADE SHOWS

MD&M South in Charlotte, NC
June 14-16 (Booth #2021)

PackExpo in Chicago, IL
October 23-26 (Booth #LU-6711)

MD&M Minneapolis in Minneapolis, MN
November 2-3 (Booth #3113)

ASIA SHOWS

MEDTEC in Shanghai, China
August 31-September 2

Medical Fair in Bangkok, Thailand
September 13-15

EUROPE SHOWS

Pharmapack Europe in Paris, France
May 18-19

Medical Technology in Galway, Ireland
September 21-22

Compamed in Düsseldorf, Germany
November 14-17



Prent Recognized Globally for Innovative Design

Prent's innovation in packaging design was not only recognized nationally with an AmeriStar award from the Institute of Packaging Professionals, but also received global recognition with a WorldStar award from the World Packaging Organisation (WPO).

The WPO recognized Prent with a 2022 WorldStar Packaging Award in its Electronics Division for the transportation and automation tote that Prent designed for medical device leader Medtronic. The prestigious award was presented to Prent for exceeding expectations in design and sustainability.

Since 1970, the WPO has provided WorldStar awards to numerous packages globally. WorldStar winners are compared to similar packages from around the world by an expert panel of international judges. Awards are based on the judges' consensus that a pack is superior in its category and market, and better in its class in execution or innovation as compared to others. For the 2022 global competition, 37 countries submitted 440 entries to the WPO for review.

"The WPO competition was very difficult from a thermoforming standpoint this year," says Prent VP of Product Development Don Handrow. "Only two thermoformers in the United States won awards, so it is an honor to be recognized. We really appreciate Medtronic and all of our customers. Without them, Prent couldn't achieve this global distinction."

About Prent's Award-winning Design

Prent's design showcases an elegant solution to an outdated tote with one single asymmetrical part that, when reflected onto itself, is snapped into place, safely housing the fragile glass components. Utilizing tight fitting radii and challenging drafts, the tote provides sufficient protection and integrates seamlessly into Medtronic's automation process. "The design decreased the footprint of its predecessor by 31% and overall package weight by nearly 700%," says Prent Design Engineer Austin Schweda. Providing the customer with a more efficient tote that was lighter and smaller had a profound economic and environmental impact that went beyond Medtronic's original requirements.

To date, Prent has won 18 national AmeriStar awards and 18 international WorldStar awards. To learn more about Prent's award-winning designs, visit prent.com.

PRENT

Profiles



GET TO KNOW YOUR PRENT REPRESENTATIVE

**Phil Luebke, Prent Janesville
Set-up Technician**

Over the last 15 years at Prent Janesville, Phil Luebke has worked as a grinder, a machine operator, and a setup mechanic. He has also helped the maintenance team and steps in as a lead technician as needed.

Luebke currently serves as a backup lead/technician and troubleshoots problems during or before production runs. He also

trains new employees and says he is always trying to help improve productivity. Luebke feels the best parts of his job are the fast pace, the variety of work, and the people with whom he works. "I like that there is a challenge every day, although not every day is a win," he said. His mantra is, "If it's broken, you bet I'm going to do all I can to fix it."

Luebke was born and raised in the Fort Atkinson/Whitewater, Wisconsin area where he held many different jobs, including helping on his family's dairy farm while in school. He has also worked in concessions and cleaned up after sporting events at UW-Madison's Camp Randall Stadium, and he worked at several dairy farms, and as a butcher. Upon graduation, he started a residential construction business while working as a test and repair mechanic for Generac Power Systems. He also worked as a part-time mechanic for his uncle at Luebke Enterprises while entertaining a career at Prent.

In his free time, he lends a hand to those in need and helps on his family's farm. He enjoys spending time with family and friends, and fishing, hunting, bowling, and watching movies and television shows.

Prent China Achieves Silver Status through Responsible Business Alliance

On February 9, Prent China received Silver Status through two rounds of the Responsible Business Alliance's validated audit process. Formally the Electronic Industry Citizenship Coalition, the RBA recognized Prent's Shanghai facility for its commitment to environmental and social responsibility. The scope included labor; environmental, health and safety; and ethics, and is widely used as a supplier qualification by many of Prent's customers. The certification lasts for 18 months.



Prent Malaysia Teaches Staff Ergonomics in the Workplace

The Safety and Health Committee at Prent Malaysia, together with Prent's respective department heads, attended a training session to further understand ergonomics in the workplace and how it can be implemented or enhanced at Prent. The session was conducted by a certified training provider for the staff onsite in Prent Malaysia's Training Room.



Prent Denmark Expands Production Capacity

Based on increasing business in Europe, Prent Denmark successfully installed an additional production line. "It was a globally integrated process from beginning to end," says Prent Denmark Operation Manager Frederik D. Sjøberg. "Supported by a global Prent team, the Prent Denmark team (*pictured at left*) successfully completed the installation and qualification in three days, which everyone can be proud of."



Prent Puerto Rico Celebrates Safety with Food and Raffles

As part of its safety recognition program, Prent Puerto Rico held a cookout for all employees on December 7, 2021 to celebrate months with no lost time accidents or recordable incidents. Food was brought in and two \$100 raffles were held among eligible employees (*winners are pictured at left*). These activities continue to reinforce among the staff the importance of a safe work environment.



GOEX Corporation's Utah Location to Open This Summer

Building on the strong tradition and values of its 30-year history in the extrusion of rigid plastic sheet, GOEX is getting ready to better serve its customers on the west coast with a new 120,000 sq. ft. facility in Cedar City, Utah. Up next is the installation of quality extrusion equipment that mirrors the capabilities of its current plant, and hiring a dedicated workforce—all to be completed this summer.



Providing Hope for Young School Children in Nigeria

Prent Corporation recently donated \$10,000 to the Holy Spirit Primary School at St. Joseph Parish in Ebenebe, Nigeria through St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Janesville, Wisconsin. Ebenebe is a town in the Awka North Local Government Area of Anambra State and is a very rural part of the State with mostly local peasant farmers and a few traders, says St. John Vianney Catholic Church Pastor The Very Reverend Paul Ugo Arinze, V.F. “The school offers the best opportunity to give kids from very poor families a head start in life.”

According to Pastor Arinze, Prent’s generous donation sponsored 20 students, a majority of whom are girls. “This is welcome news, since the pandemic negatively impacted resources for these children,” Arinze said. “With this donation, these 20 students are assured they will get through school this year. The school principal was also very pleased and relieved.” Some of the money also helped to purchase desks for the preschool and kindergarten classes.

Arinze was born in Nigeria and the school is located in his hometown. He visits family there annually which is how he discovered the urgent needs of the school. “The Parish is struggling, but they know the importance the school has in the community they serve. So, I approached some friends to help me sponsor the children. Being able to raise \$10,000 each year will go a long way to guarantee we can keep at least 20 kids in school. It is my goal to ensure that any child in this program will continue until they finish elementary school.”

Pictured above left are several of the students in grades first through fourth who attend St. Joseph Parish in Nigeria and Pastor Paul Ugo Arinze at right.

Let’s Get Technical: The Importance of Draw Ratio

Did you know draw ratio is the leading factor in the overall uniformity or wall thickness of your part? Draw ratio is equal to material stretch and is considered in all designs at Prent. Generally, draw ratio should be restricted to 1:1. If you have severe draw ratios, you are more susceptible to material thickness issues and sterility breaches, says Prent VP of Product Development Chris Bladl. “The more you stretch the material, the greater the chance of compromising the package’s integrity. More peaks and valleys equal more square inches of surface area for material to stretch into and can also impact draw ratio,” Bladl said. Other factors like top edge and bottom radii, sidewall draft, and chamfers need to be evaluated to ensure good forming with severe draw ratio.

GOEX Adds Capacity in Janesville to Help Prent Corporation’s Lead Times

GOEX is in the process of installing its newest, high-speed, Polyester extrusion line. Beginning in April, this equipment will be utilized to run PETG along with GOEX’s newest medical-grade packaging material offering MEDPET™ 90.

“This additional capacity will greatly assist in furthering the reduction of PETG lead times and provide the industry with a viable material option to address supply continuity and sustainability,” says GOEX Corporation VP of Sales and Marketing Jay Jensen.

By mid-year, GOEX will open its second production facility in Cedar City, Utah. “Some business will transfer to this facility from the current Janesville, Wisconsin site upon completion. This will result in PETG and HIPS lead time reductions through the increase in capacity, the logistical efficiency to Prent locations on the West Coast/Baja region, and a minimization on the reliance of one labor market,” says Jensen.

Ongoing planning and reinvestment in capital equipment with a focused effort in growing the medical packaging market is a priority, according to Jensen. Continued focal points of these investments will be geared toward production efficiencies and increases in automation to further the effective utilization of labor.

“GOEX continues to implement unique programs and services to encourage employee growth, participation, advancement, and retention. Strong employees translate into world class operations, innovation, efficiencies, and supportive growth for the rigid medical packaging industry,” he said.

For details about the new GOEX Cedar City, UT facility, visit goex.com.



Prent Introduces Long Former in Shanghai

Prent China Enhances Position as a Leading, Total Solution Thermoforming Provider for Growing Medical Industry

This year, Prent strengthened its production capabilities by adding a P72 class thermoformer at its China facility that can produce trays up to 1.8 meters (six feet) in length to better serve the local medical market.



Installing a thermoformer with long tray production capabilities was welcomed by medical device customers in China who have an increased packaging demand for long catheter trays.

“The response from the market has been very positive and encouraging,” says Prent China Sales Director Frank Che. “Since the beginning of 2022, we have received more than 20 long tray project requests, and our customers are eager to get their parts out of production at our Prent China facility.”

“Aside from Prent’s headquarters, Prent China is the only facility outside America that is equipped with a P72 thermoformer for long tray production,” Che said.

Prent China Engineering Manager David Lin was pleased with the way in which his team handled the entire process of installation and commissioning in the clean room. With remote support and guidance from the team in Prent Janesville, the Chinese engineering team successfully completed this important task within the planned timeframe, he said.

“With clear objectives and proper planning, the manufacturing team started preparing for the arrival of this long former last October,” says Prent China Operations Director Richard Zhou. “We renovated and extended the clean room to accommodate the new machine, and we upgraded the racking in the warehouse for tooling and finished part storage.”



“We are ready and excited to start producing and delivering parts to our customers,” Zhou said.

This capability will continue to position Prent China as a reliable, total-solution provider serving the various thermoforming needs and requirements in the rapidly changing and growing medical market in China.



Q&A with Prent Janesville Senior Tool Design Engineer

We recently caught up with Scott Kersten to learn about his 35-year tenure at Prent.

Q: When did you start at Prent?

A: I was hired in November of 1986.

Q: How did you first learn about Prent?

A: I learned about Prent Corporation from my Blackhawk Technical School Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Programming class instructor.

Q: How many different positions have you held at Prent?

A: I have had five jobs during my 35 years, including machine operator/grinder, machine operator, set-up mechanic, tool room machinist, and tool design engineer.

Q: What is the most meaningful part of your job?

A: The people are most meaningful.

Q: What has been your favorite project at Prent?

A: Some of the Christmas packages Prent designed. They can be challenging because they are all so different.

Q: What have you gained from working at Prent?

A: Learning new things on a regular basis.

Q: What is your proudest moment?

A: I’m most proud of my involvement with the Prent face shield project since we went from concept to creation of them in a very short time.

Q: What unusual or different jobs did you do prior to Prent?

A: I sold farm equipment.

Q: What do you do outside of Prent?

A: I am working on finishing my pilot’s license.

30-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Deborah Beers	Janesville
Michael Davis	Janesville
Donald Handrow	Janesville
Carl Petrick	Janesville

20-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Kimberly Miller	Janesville
Gregg Peckham	Janesville

15-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Linda Demontigny	Janesville
Brandon Duoss	Janesville
Marcellinus Anak Johen	Malaysia
Zane Lander	Flagstaff
Cory Marino	Flagstaff
Xiaohua Yang	Shanghai

10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Mark Chen	Shanghai
Yongqiang Chen	Shanghai
Yuki Gong	Shanghai
Bruce Hu	Shanghai
Yuexian Jia	Shanghai
Yan Jia	Shanghai
Yuanyuan Li	Shanghai
Huan Liu	Shanghai
Hao Pan	Shanghai
Peter Tang	Shanghai
Hongxia Xiao	Shanghai
Bin Yang	Shanghai
Jacky Zhao	Shanghai

5-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Than Win Aung	Denmark
Sheanne Bell	Janesville
Mckenzie Brown	Janesville
Meiqing Cai	Shanghai
Shiqin Cheng	Shanghai
Ming Chaun Chin	Malaysia
Katarzyna Anna Duchna	Denmark
Xiangyang Fang	Shanghai
Kay Foster	Janesville
Yan Hu	Shanghai
Anthony Johnson	Janesville
Maia Johnson	Janesville
Nicholas Klug	Janesville
Brenda Kuhnle	Janesville
Antonio Robert	Costa Rica
Wasa Simukonda	Flagstaff
Ningning Wang	Shanghai
Sheng Wang	Shanghai
Teresa White	Janesville
Liqia Yan	Shanghai
Wei Zhang	Shanghai

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A FOND FAREWELL TO OUR RETIREES

Gina Hinds » Janesville Lead Quality Associate

9/10/2002–1/6/2022 Gina plans to go camping all summer and just relax and enjoy life. House projects will keep her busy, and she looks forward to traveling and spending quality time with her family and grandchildren.

Beth Carter » Janesville Inspector/Packer

4/5/2013–1/20/2022 Beth is looking forward to this next chapter in her life and plans to expand her volunteerism to give back to her community.

Prent Partners with BTC

(continued from front page)

"We then reassembled in the classroom to have an open discussion on lessons learned and the valuable knowledge we gained to design a 'best in class' package," Schaffner said.

"The first session we had in January was exciting, as we all learned a great deal more about how our packaging is handled by the end user," he said.

Prent VP of Product Development Chris Bladl agrees. "It was a unique opportunity for our team to gown up, enter the surgical suite, and open packages to evaluate the sterile barrier packaging design for aseptic presentation and understand how well it works when gloved up and not gloved up," he said. "This program allows us to design for usability, with real world experience and feedback to draw upon, in addition to the training we give our designers."



Prent Janesville team members who participated in the pilot program include Chris Bladl, Jon Buck, Don Handrow, Jen Hawkins, Jake Keleny, Tom Schaffner, Mark Talabac, and Jesse Winker.

More Prent product development team members will participate in upcoming sessions and the program will expand to other Prent departments in the future, says Bladl.

ISO 11607 is a standard for the healthcare packaging industry that validates specific requirements for materials, sterile barrier systems, and packaging systems intended to maintain the integrity of terminally sterilized medical devices up to the point of use.