

WINTER 2020



Organic Growth Proves Pivotal to Prent's Success

Prent Corporation has become the world's largest custom thermoformer of rigid plastic packaging for medical, electronics and consumer markets strictly through organic growth.

Unlike its competitors, Prent relies on its own resources—rather than on mergers or acquisitions—including designing and building proprietary, identical thermoformers, secondary operations equipment, and tools. This ensures processes can be duplicated at any of its facilities around the globe and gives Prent the ability to react instantly to any unforeseen changes, natural disasters, or customer needs.

“Having the same quality systems, manufacturing practices, and machines has helped Prent not only grow, but also serve its customers consistently around the world,” says Vice President of Corporate Sales Joseph Pregont II. “Not having to merge multiple systems through acquisition has made us a reliable, global supplier.”

Prent's employees also play a tremendous role in the success of its continued growth. “What has been key to Prent's growth in new areas around the world is securing a strong, local plant manager. That has been the case at every one of our facilities,” says Pregont. “Local management is vital to securing quality employees, understanding the culture, interpreting local laws, and building relationships with new customers.”

Prent Helps Customers Meet Their Goals

Prent understands its customers' sustainability and cost-saving challenges—both in the marketplace and within their own operations. That's why we are committed to designing more with less and helping our customers meet their sustainability goals. Prent also encourages its customers to evaluate their existing products and let us know if they are interested in alternate materials. Often times, Prent can help minimize costs and add sustainability in new ways.

“Prent has always strived for a small carbon footprint by making environmentally conscious business decisions,” says Director of Supply Chain Andy Fallon. “We have aggressive goals for minimizing the loss throughout the thermoforming process. All of the plastic that is scrapped is then ground and recycled for future use in different, non-medical applications. In addition to grinding scrap generated, Prent returns the plastic pallets and raw material PVC cores back to our sister company, GOEX Corporation, where they are reused for new orders.”

Prent's superior design process also provides packaging that optimizes functional performance, minimizes material usage, reduces costs, and meets industry standards. Prent also continually works to reduce package weight through improved process machinery, design, tooling, and materials to decrease both environmental impact and costs.

And, Prent is committed to the development and prequalification of new materials and processes to support its customers' needs around the globe. Through extensive research and development, and a partnership with GOEX, Prent helps customers identify acceptable and environmentally-friendly new materials, including commercially available, compostable, and bio-based materials. All Prent packaging and packaging processes are RoHS compliant and contain no lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyls or polybrominated diphenyl ethers.

Prent uses returnable containers (shown above) to enhance product protection and improve freight efficiencies by eliminating wood skids and related corrugate packing materials. Returnable containers offer customers durable, clean packing, increased part protection, warehouse optimization, closed-loop packing, and reduced freight costs.

WHAT'S INSIDE

PRENT CONTINUES TO GROW DURING GLOBAL PANDEMIC

PRENT GRADUATES NEW CLASS OF GREENBELTS

PRENT DESIGN EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION

LET'S GET TECHNICAL: SNAP FIT VS. RETAINER

2020 HOLIDAY ORNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS INTERACTION

Q&A WITH JANESVILLE RETIREES WITH 40+ YEARS

John Burtness » Machine Builder

2/15/1977–9/30/2020

Pictured above, center, is John in 2020; below with his wife in 1985.

Before Prent, what was the most unusual job you've ever had? I repaired Hammond electric organs at Gibbs Manufacturing in Janesville

until it closed in 1976.

What drew you to Prent originally? I was laid off for nine months and applied based on a recommendation from my nephew. After being out of work for nine months, I was really glad to get a job as an RF Technician at Prent to work on the electronic sealing machines for the Johnson Wax air freshener line.

What were your roles at Prent? I began as an RF technician, became a thermoformer set-up mechanic, and then moved onto retrofitting and building new thermoformer machines.

How has Prent changed over the years? Prent's headquarters grew into an extremely clean, beautiful facility from its start as a fairly crude one (on Harding Street). Also, technology has changed so much ... there have been many changes from one machine to the next. Some changes even occurred during the middle of building the machines!

What did you like most about Prent? The relationship with my coworkers. Everybody in the maintenance department was nice and fun to work with.

What advice do you have for prospective Prent employees? Be patient. Don't forget to enjoy the job and keep your sense of humor.

What are your plans for retirement? I have a lot of house projects to do. I am looking forward to camping, outdoor activities and seeing my grandkids. I also hope to get more involved in my church.

Ed DeLong » Unit Manager

12/27/1978–10/30/2020

Pictured above, third from right, is Ed in 2019; and below in 1984.

Before Prent, what job(s) did you have? I was an auto mechanic. I like working with my hands and solving problems.

What drew you to Prent originally? Prent was advertising for a Material Grinder. It was a new plant to the north side, so I thought I would check it out and see what would happen. I filled out an application at 1 pm and started working at 4 pm the same day.

How has Prent changed over the years? So many things have changed—from getting air conditioning to better tooling and the best of machinery. But, what has not changed is the commitment to supplying the best parts possible to the customer.

What were your roles at Prent? I started at Prent as a Grinder for one day and 42 years later am retiring as a Production Unit Manager.

What was your proudest moment at Prent? Hitting 25 years of service—it was a big milestone for me!

How did Prent help you in your career? Having a good management team and good feedback helped, as well as the company's commitment to invest in its employees with tuition reimbursements.

What did you like most about Prent? The Prent people are hands down the best people to work with.

What advice do you have for prospective Prent employees? Work hard and good things will happen.

What are your plans for retirement? I plan to go hunting.

Prent Graduates New Class of Six Sigma Green Belts



Several Prent Janesville and GOEX employees recently graduated as Certified Six Sigma Green Belts (CSSGB). This CSSGB certification demonstrates the ability to achieve operational excellence and process improvement, and establishes a professional's skills on a data-driven approach and methodology to eliminate the defects in any process.

"Prent utilizes this certification as a process improvement tool," says Vice President of Quality Assurance Dave Henry. "Six Sigma is a problem solving philosophy that uses data to drive results."

Kevin Weidner of CPI Wizardry LLC, and a consultant for Blackhawk Technical College, assisted with the instruction of this year's class. Certification took a total of six months to achieve. The class used tools to define, measure, analyze, improve and control situations which they can, in turn, apply directly to their work environment. Graduates will be required to complete a project and pass a written exam.

"The class was trained to look at problems or challenges a little differently than what they were used to," Henry said. "Prior to the training, they may have jumped at a root cause, and now they know to ask the right questions to get the right results."

Prent Janesville's Quality Engineers will all be CSSGB certified, says Henry. Prent is training employees in other departments who express an interest and have proper qualifications. This program is an example of Prent's commitment to invest in its employees and its pursuit of excellence in quality.

PRENT

Profiles



GET TO KNOW YOUR PRENT REPRESENTATIVE

**Adrian Morales, Prent Costa
Rica Senior Quality Engineer**

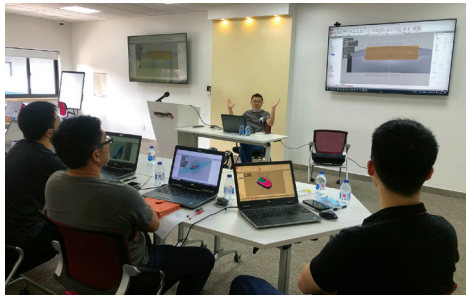
Adrian Morales has worked as a QA Engineer at Prent the last eight years and is responsible for leading internal audits, external audits, new product validation (QA portion), management of CAPAs, handling complaints and investigations to determine causes and improvements, and supplier evaluation. Morales serves as an ISO 13485 management representative for Prent Costa Rica and Prent Baja.

Morales was born and raised in Santa Ana in San Jose, Costa Rica. He earned a bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering, and has worked in quality assurance his entire career.

"After all these years, Prent is like a family to me," says Morales. "It's a company where you can give your opinion and you know you will be heard. And, when you ask for support, you know you will receive it. For me, that's very important to perform your work." Morales also appreciates the opportunity to meet people from different cultures around the world in his job.

Outside of work, Adrian has enjoyed cycling and hiking throughout Costa Rica. "Even though Costa Rica is a small country, we have a lot of nature to experience with mountains, waterfalls, and beaches, so my plan is to discover as many of these places as possible," he said.

One thing you may not know about Adrian is that, on one of his first trips to Prent's headquarters in Janesville, he experienced driving in snow for the first time. He got stuck in the parking lot where he was staying and blocked the entrance so no cars could enter or exit the lot. He says it is an experience he will never forget—especially because, although it was a cold winter day outside, he was sweating inside his vehicle!



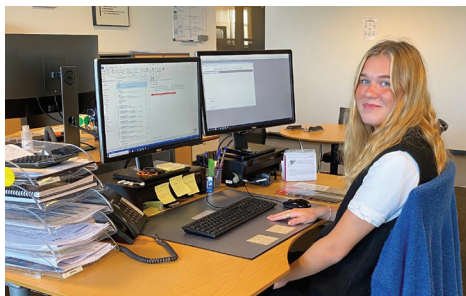
Prent China Trains Staff on 3D Scanners

Earlier this year, Prent China trained its designers, engineers, technicians, and quality assurance employees to use the award winning, state-of-the-art Artec-Space Spider 3D scanner. It uses structured light technology and lessens scanning time to improve efficiency. The application of reverse engineering design with the scanner technology facilitates tool duplication. The new scanning technology also provides higher precision parts and instant design development solutions to meet customers' requirements.



Prent Malaysia Honors Employees

To keep employees safe and abide by the government's Movement Control Order, Prent Malaysia held a smaller employee service award ceremony in October. The event was in lieu of its traditional, annual dinner and attended only by the awardees and upper management to maintain safety measures. Prent EurAsia CEO/President BJ Nielsen congratulated the staff via video conference and an award presentation followed for those employees celebrating 5, 10, 15, and 20 years of employment at Prent.



Prent Denmark Hires its First Office Apprentice

Marie Louise Ratlef Høj is Prent Denmark's first office apprentice whose primary role is to support the manufacturing team with purchasing, warehouse control, packaging optimization, and implementing new projects. During her two-year apprenticeship, Marie will attend courses at a local business school and be trained in finance, where she will assist with bookkeeping. After her apprenticeship, Marie will pursue a degree in office administration. She hopes to become a PCO/Planner at Prent Denmark.



Prent China Participates in MEDTEC Shanghai

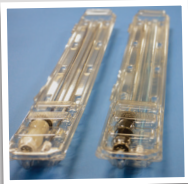
Increasing demand for reliable thermoforming solutions attracted a large number of medical industry visitors to Prent China's booth at September's MEDTEC Shanghai 2020. Over 500 exhibitors and 36,000 visitors were at the event. "It was a golden opportunity to have face-to-face meetings safely during the pandemic with both existing and potential customers for innovative design, material selection, and updated regulatory requirements," says Prent Shanghai Sales Engineer Chris Guan.



 **2020**
AmeriStar
Winner

Prent's Collection Clamshell Tray Design Earns National Recognition

The Institute of Packaging Professionals recently honored Prent Corporation with a prestigious 2020 AmeriStar Packaging Award for its Collection Clamshell Tray. The package exceeded expectations in innovation, product protection, package performance, and environmental impact, and was born out of a collaboration between Prent's Product Development Department and the customer, says Michelle Rademacher who was the project's lead designer.



"We learned about the concerns and issues from the end user up front and came up with a design solution that could house the devices and not damage them in transit," says Rademacher. "We also incorporated less components for sustainability purposes, and came up with a collection method that had better performance over the previous bulk loose pack out."

The tray's double-hinged design enables the distal end to remain snapped in place, while the proximal end has a hinge within the large lid to aid the user in opening only the handle end to easily insert and remove the device.

"Finger tabs were added to help users distinguish the opening to make it intuitive," says Rademacher. "This design allows for ease of use and storage in both the hospital and customer facility."

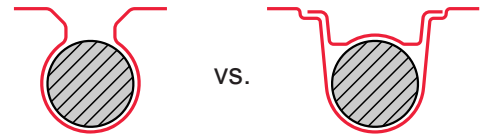
Information was also added to the bottom of the tray to help users identify where each component goes from the dilator to the stopcock off the handle. These engravings help improve hospital usability.

The clamshell organizes and stores the device for easy handling and protects the device and dilator from damage. Previously, used devices were shipped loosely in a collection container from the hospital back to the customer facility to be re-sterilized. Damage was occurring to the tips of the devices and, therefore, the devices could not be reused. Now, when the medical device is no longer being used, the end user can unsnap the handle portion of the clamshell to slide the catheter or dilator into the correct location and snap it closed.

Sustainability is also a crucial element in this package. The tray is made from recycled APET material, which is a sustainable resource.

Prent has won 11 AmeriStar awards and 16 WorldStar awards.

LET'S GET TECHNICAL Snap Fit versus Retainer



Use undercut geometry to snap and contain device within tray

vs.

Use a separate retainer to contain device within tray

Often, thermoformed trays that hold medical devices are designed with a snap fit that uses undercut geometry to contain the device. But, based on feedback from nursing panels across the nation, this type of packaging can be cumbersome when ejecting products in a sterile, surgical field.

"When you snap in a device, it immediately causes ergonomic challenges for the end user," says Chris Bladl, VP of Product Development. "Prent promotes using retainers because the non-barrier component of the packaging contains the majority of the complex geometry required for product retention. From a design perspective, the complexity can be in the retainer and not affect the sterile barrier."

The benefits of using a retainer include:

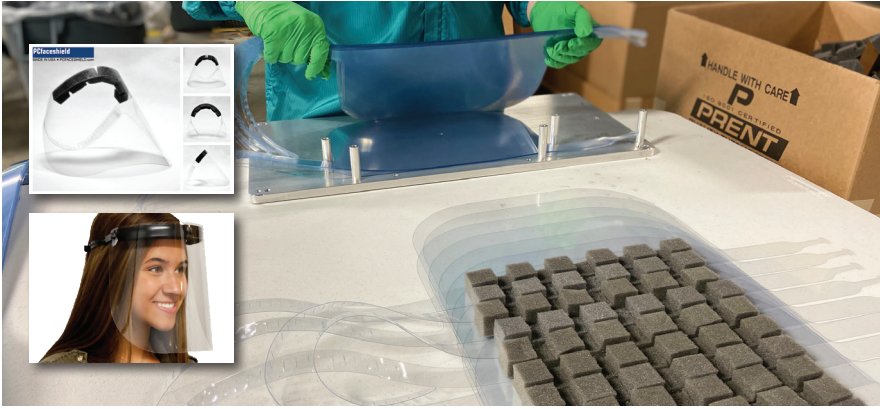
- No stress on the device or thermoform as the device simply lays into its cavity
- Ideal for delicate, fragile, small or small-diameter devices
- Easy loading/unloading of the device
- No thin areas or denest height increases
- Retainers offer an extra layer of protection between the device and lidstock

Additionally, if the retainer is not subject to the same specifications as the tray, the retainer can have more challenging geometry to form to do the bulk of the work," says Senior Designer Jason Erickson. "This allows for a simpler, easier-to-form thermoform that can result in a more robust, thicker tray."

One of the deterrents for customers could be that a retainer requires an extra thermoform to purchase and manage, according to Erickson. However, the advantages of a retainer justify the extra cost, says Bladl. And, a new FDA standard that will require user feedback on medical device packages before releasing them, could encourage more customers to consider moving to a retainer in 2021.

To find out if a retainer is right for your product, please email sales@prent.com.

Prent Seeking FDA Registration for Face Shields



The plastic face shields that Prent designed in response to the pandemic are in the process of becoming registered by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Prent continues to manufacture the face shields for frontline healthcare and first response teams as well as other industries and the general public. This is the first product design that Prent has full ownership of, according to Vice President of Quality Assurance Dave Henry. “Everything is in place, so my expectation is that we should have the Class 1 FDA registration in early 2021,” he said. “Having the FDA seal of approval ensures that safety and quality control standards are met and provides assurance to our customers that we have all checks and balances required to produce a Class 1 medical device.” For more information about this PPE, or to place an order, please visit pcfaceshield.com.

Prent plans to invest \$12.5 million and create 85 new jobs at its new manufacturing facility in Santa Teresa, New Mexico next year. Construction will begin early next year and production is planned to start in Q4 of 2021, according to Senior Vice President of Manufacturing Mark Rothlisberger.

By Q1 of 2021, Prent will have added 15,000 sq. ft. onto its machine build facility at 2315 Foster Ave. in Janesville, WI. “It is business as usual during construction with no interruptions in production,” says Rothlisberger. “The addition will provide more space for warehousing parts and assemblies and improve the overall efficiency of the machine build process.”

Prent recently increased the size of Janesville’s Product Development Department. “To keep up with the demands of our customers, we added staff and office space,” says Vice President of Product Development Don Handrow. “With a focus on customer service, speed to market, and the future of the industry, we continue to invest in our people and facilities.”

Prent Costa Rica Celebrates A Year Free of Complaints

Prent Costa Rica hasn’t had a customer complaint since May 2019. “This milestone speaks not only to a robust quality system, but also to a great team at our facility,” says Costa Rica Plant Manager Juan Carlos Touma. “Our employees understand that quality is everyone’s responsibility.”

“We’ve instilled in our staff the importance of the products we manufacture and the customers we serve. We’ve earned our clients’ trust to protect their critical products. Maintaining a high level of quality is a daily priority that has helped our plant be successful and ensures our customers are satisfied,” says Touma.

Prent Pursues ISO 13485 Registration in 2021

In December, Prent will apply for Stage 1 ISO 13485 registration and pursue its Stage 2 registration next spring.

By the end of April, Prent should be fully registered, says Vice President of Quality Assurance Dave Henry.

Prent will stay ISO 9001-registered and plans to have both systems in place in early 2021.

ISO 9001 and ISO 13485 both ensure companies create consistently safe, high quality products. ISO 9001 requirements lean more toward ensuring customer satisfaction, while ISO 13485 emphasizes the safety and efficacy of medical devices.

“Having this registration puts Prent Corporation in alignment with all our customers that are ISO 13485 registered,” Henry says. “It ensures we are following the same quality management system that they are.”

ISO 13485 is currently being adopted as a standard by many regulatory agencies globally.

“While ISO 9001 is more continuous-improvement driven, ISO 13485 is focused on risk management principles, after-market feedback, maintaining specifications, and regulatory requirements such as complaint handling and after-market surveillance,” says Henry.

Contact Us



Prent Corp. Headquarters
2225 Kennedy Road
Janesville, Wisconsin 53545



(608) 754-0276



sales@prent.com
www.prent.com

NEWSPRENT is published and distributed through Prent’s Corporate Headquarters. If you would like to join our mailing list, please call (608) 754-0276.

EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Beverly Baker	Janesville
Jerry Boehning	Janesville
Jeff Hertz	Janesville
Sharon Schoeder	Janesville
Diane Woychik	Janesville
Matthew Yanchick	Janesville

15 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Chee Day Ching	Malaysia
Scott Fiedler	Janesville
Jaes Bin Jelani	Malaysia
Zhimou Wan	Shanghai
Carrie Winnie	Janesville

10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Carol Almodovar	Puerto Rico
Dipak Budhathoki	Malaysia
Buddhi Bahadur Gurung	Malaysia
Prem Bahadur Gurung	Malaysia
Bin Sheng	Shanghai
Yam Bahadur Thapa	Malaysia
Dipak Bahadur Thapa	Malaysia
Julio Vazquez	Puerto Rico
Hui Wang	Shanghai
Zhenghui Xu	Shanghai
Weining Zhao	Shanghai

5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Mimiorshafiqqa Binti Abdullah	Malaysia
Keith Breunig	Arizona
Jennifer Glynn	Janesville
Daniel Haag	Janesville
Kora Koeppen	Janesville
Marianela Mendoza	Denmark
Karina Quinones	Janesville
Joshua Rivello	Arizona
Shirui She	Shanghai
Jolyn Stankus	Janesville
Tammy Vierck	Janesville
Ying Yu	Shanghai

A FOND FAREWELL TO THESE PRENT RETIREES

Jean Schaefer » Inspector/Packer (Janesville)

4/26/2013–9/10/2020 Jean plans to spend more time at their place up north, travel more (eventually), and just relax and take it easy.

Ron Seeman » Cleaning Person

10/14/2009–10/15/2020 Ron looks forward to spending more time up north in Merrill, WI with his wife where he enjoys working outside, fishing, hunting, and riding the ATV trail. He also has eight grandchildren that will keep him busy.

John Burtness » Machine Builder

2/15/1977–9/30/2020 John has house projects to do and is looking forward to camping, outdoor activities, seeing his grandkids, and getting more involved in his church. See inside for details.

Ed DeLong » Unit Manager

12/27/1978–10/30/2020 Ed plans to hunt in retirement. See inside for details.

Prent Holiday Ornament Highlights Interaction

When Jake Keleny, Director of Product Development, was given the directive to design the 2020 Prent holiday ornament with motion and an interactive feature, he added a unique twist ... literally. "We added a twist feature to this year's packaging with hinges that fall open to expose the ornament inside," Keleny said. "We went above and beyond the standard package design to actuate it and add a level of involvement that the end user will surely enjoy."

This year's holiday ornament highlights several unusual and creative thermoforming challenges. The unique design is something Keleny says has been in the works at Prent for more than a year. "It is a concept we had initially started investigating a while ago. The design and artwork were generated out of Prent Janesville while Prent Denmark assisted with renderings and animation for the website." Keleny was the lead designer and Senior Designer Jennifer Hawkins provided the artwork for the bulb.

Prent worked with GOEX to source the material, which they chose specifically for its thermoforming characteristics, aesthetic appearance, and tactile appeal. The base is 0.040" White Matte on Matte Polypropylene (Contour 60®) and has a rich, soft touch that feels smooth. When you open the package, you will discover the material's texture and charm as you hold the base and twist the top, allowing the leaves to fall open to reveal the decorative ornament inside.

The twisting top thermoformed material is 0.025" Clarified Polypropylene (Contour 62®). This piece illustrates the soft touch of Polypropylene in addition to its crystal clear transparency displaying the suspended ornament. With soft edges, you can easily grip and rotate the top piece for ornament removal. By combining a material that has strength and structural integrity, along with the soft touch and elegant richness, GOEX's custom Polypropylene material was an obvious choice. We hope you enjoy the ornament throughout the holidays!