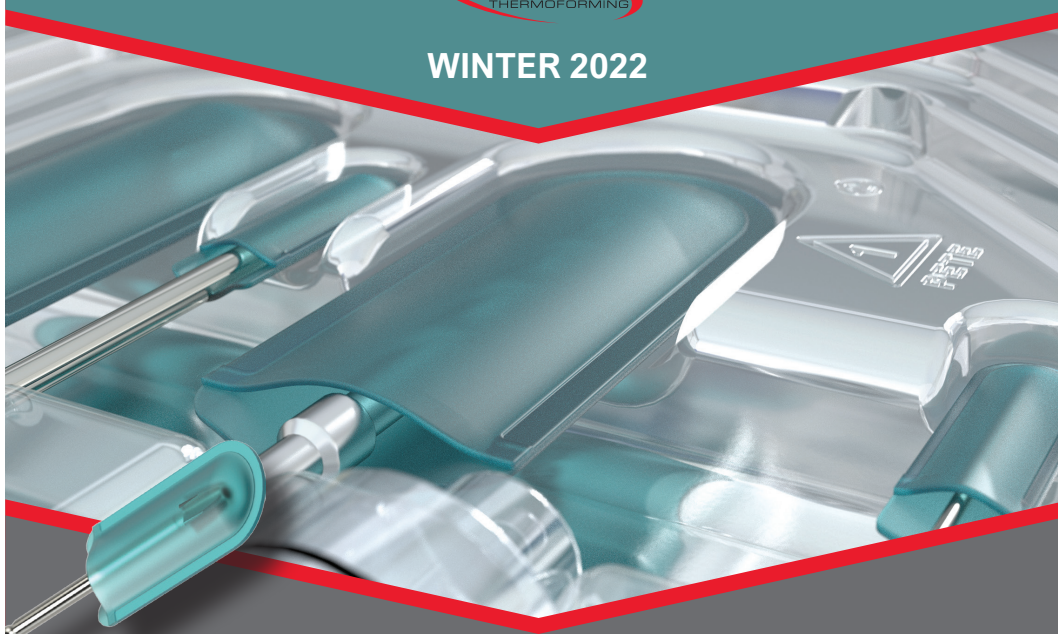




WINTER 2022



Latest Prent Innovation Offers Extra Protection

Prent Corporation has expanded its portfolio to offer its customers the option to order thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU) tip protectors, in addition to their medical device (and other) packaging orders, in the spring of 2023. TPU has the characteristics of both plastic and rubber with excellent flexibility, durability, and tensile strength, making it the ideal material for Prent's new tip protectors.

The tip protectors are designed to protect the ends of rough and sharp components including needles, surgical screws, pins, and drills. They provide resistance to punctures and abrasions to ensure safe shipping of medical devices without damage to the primary packaging.

"At Prent, product protection is always top of mind in the design process," says Director of Product Development Jesse Winker. "Our tip protector allows for a wider range of solutions to complex packaging challenges—all without sacrificing protection, and adding more safety and security than ever before."

Five tip protector sizes Prent customers can choose from this spring include:

P/N	SIZE	METRIC	AVAILABILITY
25762-1	0.39" x 1.33"	9.91 mm x 33.78 mm	Spring 2023
35566-1	0.48" x 1.33"	12.19 mm x 33.78 mm	Spring 2023
35567-1	0.64" x 2.00"	16.26 mm x 50.80 mm	Spring 2023
35568-1	0.64" x 3.00"	16.26 mm x 76.20 mm	Spring 2023
25756-1	1.25" x 3.00"	31.75 mm x 76.20 mm	Spring 2023

Tip protector specifications include:

- Available in .025" blue medical-grade TPU
- Compatible with EtO, gamma, and eBeam sterilizations
- Manufactured in ISO Class 8 cleanrooms in an ISO 13485 certified facility
- Material data sheets available upon request
- Samples available now

Prent will request a three- to four- week lead time to process orders. For more information, pricing, and pack-out specifications, please contact a Prent sales representative at prelect@prent.com or call (608) 754-0276.

Prent Hosts Alumni Event at its Headquarters

On September 22, Prent CEO (and '81 University of Wisconsin-Stout alumnus) Joe Pregont hosted an honorary event in Janesville, Wisconsin for UW-Stout alumni. The event began with tours of both Prent Headquarters and GOEX Corporation in the afternoon and ended with a reception in the evening for all attendees at Prent's Headquarters.



Nearly 100 UW-Stout alumni and community members were in attendance including 18 current Prent employees who are also UW-Stout alumni.

UW-Stout's Chancellor Katherine Frank and Vice Chancellor for Advancement and Alumni Relations Willie Johnson (pictured above with Joe Pregont) also attended the event.



Prent Janesville leadership and staff enjoyed the opportunity to network with UW-Stout alumni during the event.

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MANUFACTURING SUCCESS

2022 HOLIDAY ORNAMENT
INSPIRED BY WALT DISNEY

BJ NIELSEN REFLECTS ON HIS 20 YEARS AT PRENT



Prent Eurasia President/CEO BJ Nielsen is celebrating 20 years at Prent this fall. He took time to reflect on his tenure at Prent and shares a little about his journey below:

Back in 2002, after leaving some intense years as CEO of the Broadway Industrial Group, I had decided to spend time enjoying life with my family before re-entering the corporate world. Things turned out differently, however, as Prent Corporation CEO Joe Pregont gave me a call suggesting I join Prent and help him develop it into a truly global company.

I believed in the future opportunities within Prent's business of custom-made thermoforming, and I had high, personal regard for Joe, so I decided that it could present an interesting challenge worth considering.

Because Prent is privately-owned and Joe had a firm commitment to keep it a family-owned company, I agreed to fly to the US to discuss the opportunity with Joe. After a good realignment talk with Joe, we shook hands and that was the beginning of what, for me, has been a truly exciting and enjoyable 20-year journey!

To establish its thermoforming capabilities in Asia, I fully leveraged Prent's strong technology and industry expertise in America. However, 20 years ago, the medical device industry did not exist in Asia. Thus, it was not possible to benefit from Prent Janesville's well established relationships with its global medical device customers.

To establish high-performance Prent facilities around the globe, we started in Malaysia and then in Shanghai, China in 2004. We targeted leading, international, consumer electronic product owners such as Apple, HP, Intel, Microsoft, Micron, Seagate, etc.

The objective was to convince them to select us as their "reliable solution partner of choice" for designing and supplying their quality thermoforming packaging and precision inline automation-tray requirements.

Along with my committed colleagues who have made it all possible, I take great pride in the business relationships we established years ago with these companies—business relationships which continue to represent a very important segment within our growing business in Asia.

When some of Prent's US medical device customers decided to establish manufacturing operations in Asia in 2009, it represented a true beginning for both Prent Malaysia and Prent Shanghai to aggressively engage in and develop a key targeted business segment for Prent.

To effectively service our US medical device customers' manufacturing operations in Europe, we established the Prent Denmark facility in 2010. After some initial, challenging years, our committed team at Prent Denmark is performing well and growing.

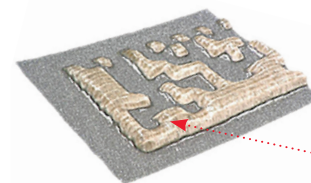
Based on my previous experience, I brought to Prent the values of always striving to create a win-win situation with our targeted customers, our selected suppliers, my colleagues and our staff. This mindset includes ensuring our committed staff works in a dynamic environment of teamwork with modern, user-friendly equipment and systems. Looking back on my time with Prent, Joe has allowed me the freedom to pursue these very important values and philosophies.

When I started 20 years ago, Prent was a very successful North American company. Today, all staff within the global Prent group, wherever they are located, are part of a dynamic and growing international company who work with some of the leading, global brand owners in both the medical and consumer electronics industries. It has truly been exciting to be a part of this development and success!

LET'S GET TECHNICAL Using Lasers to Mark Thermoformed Parts



Traceability Number 2D Barcode Part Number



Foams are created by laser on a plastic surface (magnified from 3D scan).

Did you know ... Prent Corporation uses lasers to create the markings often found on a plastic thermoformed part?

One of the methods Prent uses to do this is called "direct part marking." This is done via a laser that creates foaming on a plastic surface and ensures the markings appear clearly and accurately (see above graphic).

"This method is a great choice for customers to request of Prent when it is necessary to mark their trays with information such as a part number, a serial number, a date code, a barcode, or a 2D barcode," says Prent Malaysia's Product Development Director Siek Say Wee.

"In this era of Industry 4.0, some of Prent's customers would like to have 2D barcodes and quick response (QR) codes marked on their trays to utilize them for their automation processes, traceability, inventory management, and other applications," Siek said.

The crisp marking of Prent's laser makes it possible to have a compact, visible 2D barcode or QR code marked within a limited space.

"This is yet another value-added solution that Prent is able to provide for our customers' material handling systems," Siek said.

PRENT

Profiles



GET TO KNOW YOUR PRENT REPRESENTATIVE

*Luis Frontera, Prent Puerto Rico
Lead Thermoforming Technician*

Luis (Pito) Frontera has been employed at Prent Puerto Rico for over 16 years.

Frontera started at Prent as a machine operator and, through continued learning and hands-on experience, was promoted to Lead Thermoforming Technician.

In his current role, Frontera leads the implementation of continuous improvement initiatives on the manufacturing floor. He identifies safety opportunities and makes corrections as needed, supports transfers and new validations, and provides direction and technical expertise to the manufacturing operations team. He serves as a liaison to the Prent Janesville engineering team and provides troubleshooting for the thermoformers at the Prent Puerto Rico facility. He also supports the Latin America technical team, with a focus on the Prent Baja team.

Frontera loves challenges, but, more than anything, he enjoys identifying the root cause of problems in order to implement permanent and preventive solutions.

Frontera trained as an automotive mechanic and also served in the United States Armed Forces. In his free time, he loves to work on his 25th anniversary edition 1990 Ford Mustang, as well as his 1971 Toyota Land Cruiser. He also enjoys fixing things that are broken and spends time working in his home-based machine shop.



Prent Janesville Sponsors a Bus for Students to PACK EXPO

On October 28, Prent provided transportation for 30 University of Wisconsin-Stout packaging students to attend the PACK EXPO in Chicago, Illinois. Prent sponsors the bus for this excursion every year to expose students to the packaging industry through classes and exhibits. The students also toured Prent's state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Janesville that included cleanroom operations, design capabilities, and tool build, and showcased Prent's ongoing investment in new technology to meet its customers' needs.



Prent Arizona Sponsors Employee Outing to NAU Football Game

Prent Arizona employees were treated to a company outing to cheer on Northern Arizona University (NAU) football players on November 19. Although NAU lost narrowly to Weber State, the Prent staff still enjoyed the game. Prent rented out the pavilion at the J. Lawrence Walkup Skydome in Flagstaff and provided food and drinks for the employees to enjoy prior to the game. Employees sat together to enjoy the game—and some even got a photo with the NAU mascot "Lumberjack." (Pictured at left is Adrew Ned and his son.)



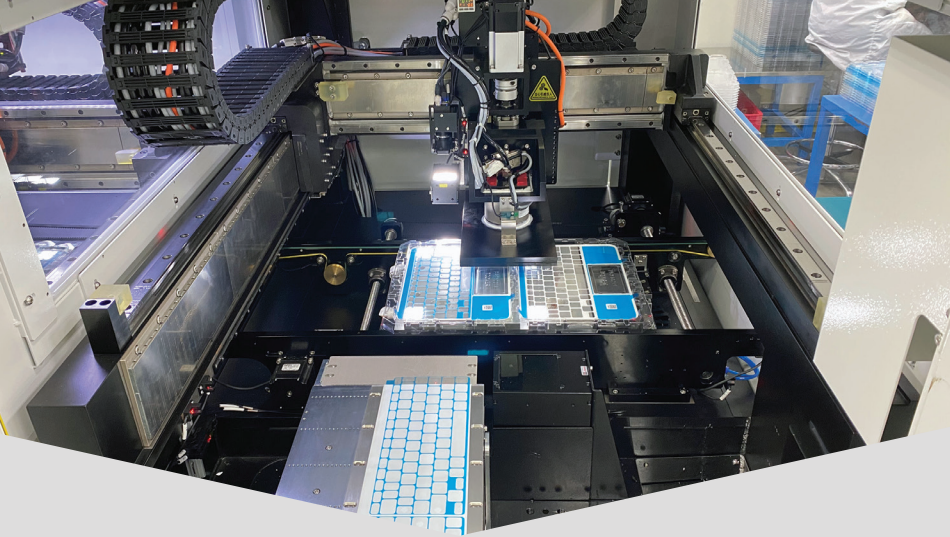
Prent China Builds Camaraderie Among New Employees

Every fall, China celebrates the Mid-Autumn Festival on the lunar calendar, which is a meaningful time for family reunions. To celebrate the traditional Festival and integrate its newest employees, Prent China organized a small, team-building activity on September 9. More than 30 staff enjoyed a venue decorated with colorful lanterns, games, and refreshments such as mooncakes. Staff separated into three teams by drawing lots and competed in games that included "Blind 007," a song title guessing game, a classic Chinese game called Pitch-pot, and more to build camaraderie amongst the new staff.



Prent Puerto Rico Sponsors Local Volleyball Club

Prent Puerto Rico sponsored Yauco's Volleyball Club to bring the sport and professional league back to the town after years of absence. The Yauco team was recognized as one of the top contenders, and multi-year champions in past years. The club is also recognized for developing young people into professional athletes. Several of those players have earned spots on the Puerto Rico National Volleyball Team (2021 NORCECA Champions) and have stood out in offshore professional teams.



Automation is Key to Manufacturing Success

Automation has been key to the success of Prent Shanghai's manufacturing department in recent years, especially in the secondary process of consumer electronic component projects, according to Prent Shanghai Operations Manager David Lin. "The objective is to achieve consistent production quality and reliability that meets stringent customer specifications. It also helps reduce the manpower requirements and achieve higher productivity with optimum cost efficiencies," Lin says.

Recently, Prent Shanghai successfully launched an automation program for an auto Pressure Sensitive Adhesive (PSA) taping process for a new high-volume project—a smart keyboard component for a key customer. The thermoformed component needed to be accurately formed and trimmed to meet a tight specification (+/- 0.1mm). It then went through secondary processes of auto taping six pieces of PSAs and adding a 2D barcode (meeting +/- 0.2 mm position accuracy) to the part before final delivery to the customer.

Prent Senior Process Engineer Quinto Xu, who worked on the machine development and successfully launched it to meet a tight project timeline, says that the auto PSA taping machine is equipped with the latest technology and comes in a modular format. "It has multiple CCDs to precisely calibrate the position of a PSA onto the product, auto adjustment on pick and place, and so on," Xu said. "It is a combination of five individual modular stations that provide Prent with the flexibility of adding more stations in the future, if required."

Quinto worked closely with Prent's product designer and the customer to define the product specification, and underwent rounds of DFM fine tuning with the machine vendor to ensure the PSA machine was user-friendly and met all the various technical and production requirements.

The entire machine development process took nine months, including rough concept, DFM review, simulation tests, machine fabrication, installation, and commissioning.

Prent Production Manager JC Qin says he is pleased with the timely arrival and successful automation of this highly sophisticated auto PSA taping machine that meets the volume production ramping requirement. "It has saved manpower on the production floor, and, more importantly, the PSA taping quality has been very consistent, highly precise, and very reliable," Qin said.

Developing production methods such as this helps Prent continue its focus on automation initiatives that provide reliable solutions to its customers and strengthen its competitive advantage in the market.

Prent Holiday Ornament Inspired by Walt Disney



Prent's design team utilized multiple layers of engraving within the tooling to create a unique geometric snowflake design with hidden branding on this year's holiday ornament, according to Prent Janesville Development Team Leader Jennifer Hawkins. "The inspiration to incorporate the Prent logo in the design came from all of Disney's 'Hidden Mickeys,'" she said.

Did you know ... rumor has it that Hidden Mickeys were started as an inside joke of the Disney Imagineers/Artists? They are partial or complete images of Mickey Mouse hidden in the designs of Walt Disney World's attractions, hotels, eateries, and other areas.

If you get a chance, look closely at the holiday ornament to find the Prent logo all through this year's design.

As is tradition for Prent, this project is mainly held under a single designer, who takes ownership of the project, but many people help throughout the process, according to Hawkins. "We had different personnel helping with the development of the package design, the design of the print on the ornament, the renderings for all the promotional images, the laser print on top of the package, the design of the tooling components, the build of the tooling, running the parts, and the assembly," she said. "It takes a team to create a successful package for our customers every year, with everyone playing a vital role in the process."

GOEX made the material selection which highlights its RE•COVER™ (recycled PETG (rPETG)) material throughout the thermoformed packaging to showcase its sustainable products and services. The 100% recycled post-industrial content was co-extruded through a closed-loop, traceable system that is unique to GOEX.

Hawkins said a lot goes into the planning of this project. "Every year we start in early spring, and work through the full design until we run production in November, so it can reach customers for the holidays."



Prent Puerto Rico Weathers Hurricane Fiona

On September 20, Puerto Rico braced for a Category 1 cyclone named Hurricane Fiona. Although Fiona brought less powerful winds than the Category 4 Hurricane Maria did in 2017, areas of the main island saw just as much rain, if not more. After Fiona’s impact, a group of Prent employees volunteered to support the prompt start up of Prent Puerto Rico’s operations to ensure no impact to its manufacturing. Prent Puerto Rico activated its business continuity plan on September 15, which included potable water for the plant and Prent employees.



Prent Attends Career Fair at UW-Stout

Prent Corporation participated in the semi-annual University of Wisconsin-Stout Career Conference on September 26-29 at the Memorial Student Center in Menomonie, Wisconsin. Prent Janesville Engineers Kyle Zeilinger and Ty Kolb (*pictured above*) were present to connect with UW-Stout students and answer questions at the event.

Prent was one of over 400 companies around the Midwest meeting with UW-Stout students to interview and potentially recruit them to fill jobs in packaging and engineering. Many UW-Stout graduates turn to Prent for employment as the university offers programs in manufacturing, mechanical, plastics, computer/electrical engineering, and programs in packaging and engineering technology.

UW-Stout reported that 1,500 students visited the event. With unemployment low and workforce needs high in the Midwest, the turnout was a win-win for students nearing graduation as well as the participating corporations seeking to fill positions in their industries.

GOEX Cedar City, Utah Now Open

After months of planning, construction, equipment installation, and hiring new team members, Prent’s sister company GOEX Corporation is now extruding plastic at a second location in Cedar City, Utah for the first time in its history.



The Cedar City site integrates GOEX Janesville’s attention to detail allowing for a seamless transition across manufacturing sites, while mirroring its operating platform.

“Obviously, the addition of our facility in Utah has allowed us to expand production,” GOEX President Josh Gray said. “The relationships with our suppliers have proven, yet again, to be a solid foundation for minimizing impacts seen through the supply chain and labor shortages across the country. We continue to work as partners to meet demand.”

GOEX Corporation’s Cedar City facility extrudes a variety of products including polyesters (PET, rPET, PETG, rPETG) as well as polypropylene and high impact polystyrene (HIPS). GOEX is a prime supplier of rPETG, which is made with up to 100% recycled content.

GOEX Cedar City is now open and welcomes your business.

CONTACT US



Prent Corporation Headquarters
2225 Kennedy Road
Janesville, Wisconsin 53545



(608) 754-0276



sales@prent.com
prent.com

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EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS

Dale Knapton Janesville

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS

Jeffrey Ayen Janesville

Kenneth Vance Janesville

Lindsey Winters Janesville

Sean Xiao Shanghai

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

Man Bahadur Basnet Malaysia

Izzat Ismadi Bin Ramlan Malaysia

Aimie Fatiehah Binti Hasli Malaysia

Jit Bahadur Bista Malaysia

Yuanyuan Cheng Shanghai

Zerong Ding Shanghai

Jennifer Hawkins Janesville

Lal Bahadur Karki Malaysia

Fred Pan Shanghai

James Soto Janesville

Quinto Xu Shanghai

Juanli Yang Shanghai

CELEBRATING 5 YEARS

Ketai Ao Shanghai

Kaci Burner Janesville

Xiuqing Cai Shanghai

Fuling Chen Shanghai

Sarah Collins Janesville

Yulian Ding Shanghai

Qinghua Gao Shanghai

Alejandro Zepeda Hernandez Janesville

Juan Li Shanghai

Xue Li Shanghai

Chengli Liu Shanghai

Lijun Liu Shanghai

Jinjin Liu Shanghai

Yunfeng Miao Shanghai

Guijie Mu Shanghai

Amanda Pellizzi Janesville

Xiaofang Qin Shanghai

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Yanxia Zhang Shanghai

Li Zhu Shanghai

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Prent Malaysia Celebrates Long Service Awards

Prent Malaysia celebrated its 2022 Long Service Awards with a ceremony on November 2 that honored 23 Prent employees. The award presentation was held in Prent Malaysia's training room and included Prent Eurasia President/CEO BJ Nielsen and leaders of all departments. This was the first time in two years that Nielsen attended the award presentation ceremony in person as he could not be on site previously due to Covid-19 travel restrictions.



Prent Malaysia employees from left to right include 20-year, 15-year, 10-year, and 5-year award recipients.



P34 Deep Draw Expands to Prent Baja and Asia

With the implementation of a new P34 Deep Draw last month, Prent Baja in Rosarito, Mexico now features deep draw thermoforming capabilities.

"This capacity expansion supports the exceptional and fast-paced business growth in the region," says Prent Vice President of Manufacturing-Latin America Wilfredo Mercado.

The P34 Deep Draw machine's unparalleled design allows Prent to serve customers with trays up to 8" deep while maintaining full flexibility to run regular depth P34 product.

To accommodate Prent's worldwide customer base, Prent Asia also now offers deep draw capabilities in both of its Prent Shanghai and Prent Malaysia manufacturing operations. Building identical thermoformers worldwide allows Prent the unique ability for repeatable global manufacturing. For more information, please contact a sales representative at sales@prent.com.