

NEWSPRENT

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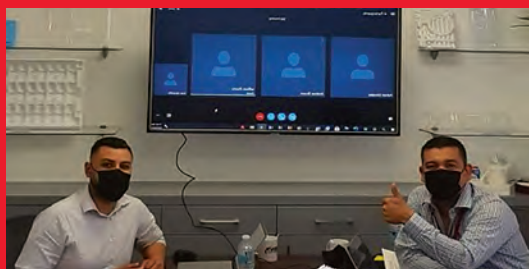
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Prent Baja Focuses on Quality and Safety

Prent Baja employees have kept busy with training, audits, quality assurance, safety, and production since opening in 2019. Below is the Prent Baja team and a few highlights from this year:



Prent Baja completed its annual, external ISO audit by the ABS Group in May. The audit had very satisfactory results and confirmed consistency in Prent's adherence to ISO-13485 standards. Prent Baja's entire team is committed to ensuring the best quality management system and risk mitigation practices.



As part of its ongoing safety program, Prent Baja performed its annual evacuation drill program in June with a record time of 1.5 minutes.



Prent and GOEX Collaborate to Combat Resin Shortage

A perfect storm came together this past year to create a resin shortage that impacted the plastics industry around the globe—from a crippling southern freeze to high consumer demand that rebounded after the start of the pandemic, all while businesses were still trying to recover from damaging, back-to-back hurricanes. This led to a supply shortfall of raw materials and caused an increase in pricing for plastic resins, making it challenging to secure supplies and fulfill orders.

The freeze in Texas devastated the power grid which played a big part in the material shortage. The last time that Texas had a comparable freeze was 1989 when the state's power grid served less than 17 million people compared to 30 million today!

"We often deal with hurricanes, floods, and droughts that can negatively impact river traffic from the Gulf and inland logistics, but this is the first time that many plastic resin feed stocks were shut down due to a natural disaster," says GOEX Janesville's Director of Materials Bob Merrick.

"When the storm hit, the entire North American petrochemical industry, from which the majority of plastics are derived, shut down. Supplies were short and allocated on a producer level, so GOEX was only able to get a certain percentage of materials based on each producer's situation," Merrick said. "Fortunately, GOEX created a supply chain over the years that allowed it to react quickly to the shortage."

Additionally, GOEX stocks many alternate resins that Prent could access and offer to its medical industry customers for validation to keep production moving as efficiently as possible. According to Merrick, the tremendous synergy between the teams at Prent and GOEX helped Prent's medical industry customers, who traditionally only approve one resin for their packaging, get regulatory approval as quickly as possible.

"Prent was able to work with customers on an as-needed basis to get alternative resins approved through GOEX and keep the supply moving to prevent a stock out. Several of Prent's customers were able to approve alternatives in two weeks. Because we had multiple sources, we were able to tap in to existing resins approved through GOEX," Merrick said.

Merrick said that North America stopped exports of most plastics which helped prevent stock outs across the domestic supply chain. "Supplies are still tight, but dual source resins remain a great option for customers."

PRENT

Perspective

A MESSAGE FROM
JOSEPH PREGONT
PRENT CORPORATION
PRESIDENT AND CEO



I am pleased to report that Prent completed another successful fiscal year—even under the pandemic’s cloud. Our human resources department and plant managers arranged vaccination clinics on site, and off site for our smaller facilities, which allowed the majority of our employees to get vaccinated and eliminated the need for face masks/shields. Many of our customers don’t yet allow outside visitors, which has created a challenge moving new projects along in some cases.

We completed a new thermoforming clean-room in Janesville to reduce lead times for ongoing business. And, we’ve put forth an enormous effort to ensure all Prent facilities worldwide are equivalent—with identical machines—eliminating the need for long validation processes to move business to regional sites as the market changes.

All of Prent’s facilities had record sales this past year. China had success in both local medical packaging supply and the computer/high tech markets. Malaysia had a strong year supplying the computer chip industry, which was in high demand, and medical markets. Our Latin American group (Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, and Mexico) finished strong as elective surgeries continue to increase. Janesville and Flagstaff had to overcome a slower start, but finished very strong in the medical device markets. I want to congratulate our entire staff for finding a way to finish the fiscal year in record form. There was a great sacrifice on everyone’s part to keep our momentum going strong over the past year.

We continue to plan for our fiscal 2022, which has record growth in the forecast. We will be busy building machines for additional capacities and plant expansions to better serve our customers. I believe we’ve assembled the best team in the industry to meet our ever-changing customer requirements.



Retainers Offer a Wide Variety of Benefits

Retainers are an additional component to an overall packaging system that Prent uses to protect fragile medical device components during transit, says Vice President of Product Development Chris Bladl.

Prent has used retainers in its medical device packaging for decades. “Not only are retainers a protective part of the package, but they also serve as a useful component in the presentation of a device, providing more functionality to the end user,” Bladl says.

Some common types of retainers that Prent uses, depending on the design intent for the customer and the device, include:

- Drop In
- Snap In
- Hinged (pictured above)
- Permanent
- Removable

Key features of a retainer include rapid loading of a product, easy end-user access to a tray, and excellent sterilization presentation. Retainers also are beneficial in medical device packaging because they:

- Enhance product protection
- Reduce sterile barrier tray complexity
- Offer better ergonomics for the end user than undercut retention features in the tray
- Enhance the aseptic transfer of a medical device into the sterile field in many scenarios

Prent’s Newly Patented Retainer

“Currently, every Prent retainer is custom designed for each package,” Bladl said. “However, we are working on a standard retainer in several different sizes that we will house in a design library so our designers can select from a standard retainer for many products.”

“Prent is in the process of patenting this new “pretainer” that will standardize small twist-to-open and slide-to-open retainers that can be implemented into any medical device package, allowing for maximum product protection during shipment. They also can be easily disengaged, providing smooth aseptic transfer to the sterile field while improving the ergonomics of this process,” Bladl said.

Let's Get Technical: Retainers



GET TO KNOW YOUR PRENT REPRESENTATIVE

Morgan Meinders
Production Planner/Scheduler
Prent Janesville

Morgan joined the Prent Janesville team the summer she graduated high school and continued working as an Inspector/Packer (IP) for over

four years. She left briefly to finish her last year of college at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, but returned to work full time as an IP when COVID began. Morgan was offered a Lead position working on the production of Prent's face shields before accepting a position as a Shipping Clerk in the logistics department. Shortly after, she accepted a position in PCO as a Planner/Scheduler.

Morgan's main responsibilities include scheduling all orders in the Janesville plant, making sure manufacturing has the necessary supplies to run efficiently, and working with other departments—mainly manufacturing and sales—to ensure timely production and meet order deadlines.

Morgan's favorite part of her job is that it is never boring. She also appreciates that her team of coworkers are supportive, encouraging, and fun to work with.

Morgan was born and raised in Janesville, Wisconsin, and earned her degree in Human Resource Management. Prior to Prent, she worked in retail, grocery, farm, factory, and office settings. In her spare time, Morgan enjoys spending time with her fiancé and her two French bulldogs. She also enjoys a good book, lounging in her pool in the summer, and snowmobiling in the winter.

One thing you may not know about Morgan is that she has an identical twin sister.



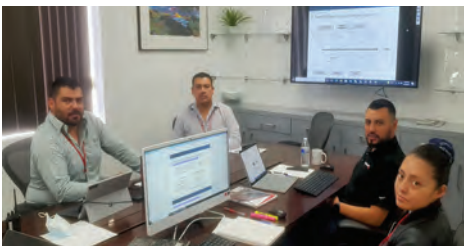
Prent China Hosts Traditional DIY Rice Dumpling Activity

Prent China organized a traditional rice dumpling, do-it-yourself (DIY) activity on June 10 in conjunction with the Dragon Boat Festival. 50 employees from different departments participated in making the dessert from scratch and celebrated the traditional festival culture. When the DIY activity was finished, the participants shared the rice dumplings with other Prent employees.



Prent Janesville Holds Safety Recognition Event for Employees

Prent Janesville celebrated its tremendous safety record in June by providing employees with an outdoor cookout featuring multiple volunteers from the Prent administration who grilled hot dogs and burgers. The event honored all employees who work hard every day to ensure Prent continues to be a safe place to work.



Prent Baja Offers ISO 13485:2016 Training

Prent employees from Baja, Puerto Rico, and Costa Rica attended a 16-hour training on ISO-13485 standards in May. The training emphasized root cause analysis, which involves a wide range of tools and techniques to uncover and resolve the root cause of a problem that may arise on the job.



Prent Malaysia Steps Up Preventive COVID-19 Measures

As the COVID-19 pandemic in the country continues to worsen, Malaysia has been put under a full lock down with all businesses ordered to close, except for sectors providing essential goods and services. Prent Malaysia obtained approval from the Ministry of International Trade and Industries to continue its operations with a reduced amount of staff. Prent's administrative staff is working from home while its operational staff continues to work on site. To enhance its safety measures, Prent Malaysia acquired a fogging machine to conduct its own disinfection of the whole premises. Additionally, the notice board was replaced with a flat screen TV that streams good hygiene practices onsite.



Pregont Family Continues Tradition of Excellence

The next generation of Prent and GOEX corporations is ensuring continued success in their respective marketplaces. You have most likely had business dealings with one of the three descendants of President and CEO Joe Pregont as they have all been active in day-to-day operations for many years. Below is a snapshot of their backgrounds and current roles.

Prent Janesville Receives 2021 Health Care Hero Award

Prent Corporation is a 2021 recipient of SSM Health Wisconsin's Health Care Hero Award for its support throughout the pandemic. Early on, PPE was scarce and Prent was able to quickly develop a solution to meet the demand for face shields. Within 48 hours of a design concept, Prent manufactured face shields to supply front-line workers with much needed PPE around the globe. Prent Janesville donated thousands of shields locally early on, and has been a trusted supplier throughout the pandemic. Prent extends its gratitude to all front-line health care professionals at SSM Health and around the globe.

SSM Health Wisconsin's Health Care Hero Awards are designed to recognize employees, providers, and community partners who exemplified its values throughout the pandemic, displaying deeply compassionate service, extraordinary innovation and courageous leadership. Pictured above are Prent Vice President of Manufacturing Rachel Andres, right, with SSM Health Wisconsin Regional Purchasing Manager Shawn Uschan, middle, and Ryan Holsker, Prent Sales Representative, left.



Rachel Andres
VP of Manufacturing
Prent Corporation

Rachel has been at Prent Corporation for nearly seven years. A graduate of University of Colorado, she began as a Prent intern in 2005 and went on to manage production and manufacturing development, and oversee US manufacturing as VP in 2018. Rachel and her husband Daniel live in Janesville with their four daughters.



Joseph Pregont II
VP of Corporate Sales
Prent Corporation

Joseph II has been at Prent Corporation for almost six years. A graduate of University of Iowa, he started his career at Prent as a sales account representative and became a corporate account manager in 2015. Joseph was named Vice President of Corporate Sales in 2017. He and his wife Jordanne live in Janesville with their two daughters and son.



Michael Pregont
Senior VP of Operations
GOEX Corporation

Michael has been at GOEX Corporation for six years. He became Medical Market Manager in 2018 after serving as Account Manager in the medical packaging department. Michael was promoted to Senior VP earlier this year. He is a graduate of UW-Whitewater and is engaged to Olivia.



Prent China Attends China Flower Expo

Over 220 Prent China employees visited the China Flower Expo in Chongming Island, Shanghai June 6-10. The expo spans over 1,400 acres and features 30 million flowers, 180 outdoor gardens, and 64 indoor exhibits. Prent employees toured the flower-covered gardens and posed for photos all over the grounds. Prent China organized an online activity for employees to "Vote for Your Favorite Group Photo." Over 200 employees participated online to view over 70 group photos. 35 photo contributors won awards and gifts.



Prent Offers COVID-19 Vaccines to Staff

Prent employees, and even some family members, took advantage of free COVID-19 vaccinations around the globe

The health and safety of all Prent Corporation employees and customers remains a high priority. Thus, Prent encouraged its employees around the globe to get vaccinated for COVID-19 as vaccines became available.

Prent's human resources department worked with Prent's plant managers to set up vaccination clinics at larger plants, and set up off-site vaccination clinics for employees at its smaller plants. This allowed the majority of Prent employees, as well as some of their family members, to get vaccinated and also eliminated the need for face masks/shields.

Prent Janesville

Janesville's Director of Human Resources Amanda Pellizzi says 16 employees and one family member took advantage of a June vaccination clinic in Janesville where they received

the Johnson & Johnson vaccine (pictured above). Prent Janesville plans to hold another vaccination clinic in the fall in conjunction with its on-site influenza vaccination clinic.

Prent China

While authorities in China have been doing an excellent job of containing the COVID-19 virus, they are determined to achieve an 80%+ vaccination rate before accepting regular visits into and out of China again.



Prent Malaysia

Prent Malaysia applied to participate in the government-sponsored Industry Vaccination Program in June and was one of the first to receive approval due to its affiliation with the medical sector. 94% of Prent Malaysia's staff received its first dose on July 11 and will receive its second dose August 1.



Prent Baja

The Mexican government distributed 1.3 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at Mexico's northern border this summer. In an effort to promote a safe work environment, Prent Baja sent all of its employees to get vaccinated as soon as the vaccination program was launched.



Prent Puerto Rico

In the midst of a very high demand and low supply of COVID-19 vaccines in Puerto Rico, Prent Puerto Rico was able to coordinate and secure sufficient Moderna vaccines for all of its employees. Vaccination clinics were held on April 5 and 29. After all first responders and residents at high risk received vaccinations in Puerto Rico, the government allowed critical manufacturers like Prent to have their employees vaccinated.

Prent Costa Rica

Prent Costa Rica is one of the few Latin American countries that had a contract with manufacturers to obtain COVID vaccines; however, the government-run initiative has been slow. Most of those at high risk were vaccinated first, and teachers will be next, followed by the general public. Officials are hoping around 70% of the population will be vaccinated by September 2021.

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2225 Kennedy Road
Janesville, WI 53545

PRENT

People

EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

20-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Hari Prasad Chaudhary	Malaysia
Mohan Prasad Chaudhary	Malaysia
Hasri Bin Jumaat	Malaysia
Heng Sok Piau	Malaysia

15-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Jessica Chen	Shanghai
Guilan Feng	Shanghai
Philip Fjalstad	Janesville
Cailiang Nong	Shanghai
Karla Prince	Janesville
Jennifer Regner	Janesville
Sarina Binti Sagiran	Malaysia
Lingang Wang	Shanghai

10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Jonathan Ast	Janesville
Angela Erickson	Janesville
Ronglei Lv	Shanghai
Marcella Smith	Flagstaff
Randy Spivey	Janesville
Koby Wellnitz	Janesville
Li Zhang	Shanghai

5-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Alexander Burkett	Janesville
Dawn Castle	Janesville
Bonnie Feng	Shanghai
Amanda Furseth	Janesville
Brandon Grant	Janesville
Yingying Han	Shanghai
Jason Heiman	Janesville
Brandon Lange	Janesville
Mohd Rashid Bin Abdul Majid	Malaysia
Kevin Polacek	Janesville
Erin Schmalz	Janesville
Mike Sokolik	Janesville
Nur Afnizar Binti Tenek	Malaysia
Jerry Wang	Shanghai
Kun Wang	Shanghai
Xiaoyu Wang	Shanghai
Yanmei Yu	Shanghai
Haohao Zhang	Shanghai
Dingtiao Zhao	Shanghai

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A FOND FAREWELL TO OUR RETIREES

Debra Christner » Inspector/Packer

9/9/1998–4/26/2021

Shirley Carlson » Inspector/Packer

11/4/2013–5/6/2021 Shirley plans to sell real estate in retirement.

Joyce Brown » Inspector/Packer

5/9/2014–5/6/2021 Joyce plans to spend more time with her children, six granddaughters, and one grandson now that she is retired.

Prent Promotes Sustainability During COVID

Prent's commitment to environmental sustainability has remained a constant—even throughout the pandemic this past year, according to Prent Janesville's Facilities Engineer Luke Forde.

Prent proactively manages the output of its equipment, which is tied into a Business Management System (BMS), to ensure everything operates as it should. "Our heating and cooling systems and utilities are run on the BMS which allows us to access diagnostics and historic data of our HVAC, process chilled water, hot water, air compressors, vacuum pumps, and other units at all times—onsite and remotely."

"We can track historic data that is recorded every two minutes for the equipment that is tied into the BMS. That allows us to view trends on how effectively things are running and proactively change it to run more efficiently. For example, we can go back in time to see if a certain system is running hotter or more often than previous load history to determine if we have an issue downstream, and we can then track down the problem and fix it. The BMS is also tied into an alarm system that alerts us via email and text when problems arise in real time, so we are able to quickly acknowledge issues and get ahead of them," Forde says. Prent continues to add equipment to the system to increase efficiency.

"Additionally, due to social distancing and air quality provisions in the work place during the pandemic, we were able to increase our air flow to have more air changes per hour." This helped mitigate the potential for the COVID virus to circulate in less stagnant air, according to Forde.