



## PRENT INVESTS IN THE FUTURE WITH NEW INNOVATION CENTER

After years of planning and preparation, and months of construction, Prent designers, tool design engineers, and support staff moved into the new, state-of-the-art Prent Innovation Center in November. The remaining staff members will join the Design and Development team at the new facility adjacent to Prent's Corporate Headquarters in Wisconsin.

The direct connection to Prent Headquarters provides access to the main building and current tool room, which will remain operational while staff improve overall efficiencies in the new building, according to Prent VP of Product Development Chris Bladl.

"We are working hard to ensure that our customers will not see any effect on their current tooling lead times during this transition to the new building and implementation of the new technology."

"Our main focus has been to not delay our customers while we made this move," Prent VP of Product Development Don Handrow said. "We continue to run two tool rooms until we are fully capable in the new building."

"We have started to utilize the five-axis CNC equipment and are already beginning to see the benefits and efficiencies of this technology," Handrow said.

"From a tooling and machining perspective, this is ground breaking.

It is next level ... the future. And, we are doing everything in-house, so the quality control is exceptional," he said.

"All of this is an evolution. We are figuring out strategies to increase speed from the programming and processing side. We've also made great gains on the finishing with polish and cleaning. The finishes and the workmanship are next level," Handrow said.

"The investment in technology will allow us to have 100% of our tools running in a 24-7 manufacturing environment," Bladl said. "There is a significant learning curve to go from three-axis to five-axis machining, but this will allow us to cut down tooling times and increase capacity for the production of new tools. By early 2025, we hope to be fully up to speed with increased production."

"Our long-term goal is to have the same machining centers replicating this technology in other Prent Product Development sites," Bladl said.

"Prent's vision and reinvestment into the organization is second to none," Handrow said. "Prent is continually reinvesting in our people and equipment so we are always on the leading edge of technology and speed-to-market. And, our customer focus is always a priority. That is why Prent made this vision a reality."



## NEW TECHNOLOGY AND BETTER EFFICIENCIES

The new Innovation Center, located on the Prent Wisconsin campus boasts "art-to-part" all in one facility.

"The speed and efficiency of our overall product development process has significantly improved with the centralizing of the Design and Tool Design Engineering teams," says Prent VP of Product Development Chris Bladl. "The expedited transfer of information and project management in a centralized location is extremely beneficial."

The new technology has also been a key factor in increased production capabilities.

The technological advancements in the new Prent Innovation Center include:

- Five-axis machining
- Lights-out operation through automation on all machining platforms
- Increased tooling speed-to-market to accommodate customer needs
- New laser trimming capabilities up to 72 inches in the sample department
- Future growth for new projects and tooling

"We've already seen gains in machine finishing, speed of machining, the accuracy of programs, machining undercuts and difficult geometry, decreased polishing time, speed of set up, and much more," Prent VP of Product Development Don Handrow said.

To learn more about how Prent can put this new technology to work for your company, email [sales@prent.com](mailto:sales@prent.com).



## ▶ PRENT SUPPORTS MANUFACTURING EDUCATION

In October, Prent Executive VP Rachel Pregont Andres joined local leaders in celebrating the grand opening of Blackhawk Technical College's state-of-the-art Innovative Manufacturing Education Center (IMEC) in Wisconsin. Prent donated \$250,000 to fund a manufacturing automation cell within the IMEC. The new 45,000 square-foot IMEC simulates a real-world manufacturing environment with hands-on experience for high demand industries such as welding, automation systems technology, and electro-mechanical technology.



## ▶ GLOBAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SUMMIT HELD AT PRENT CHINA

Prent Management Information Systems (MIS) teams from China, Malaysia, and Wisconsin attended a five-day summit in Shanghai, China in October. The summit focused on building an information technology (IT) roadmap and an implementation plan for upcoming, key projects. Cross-training and sharing of best practices provided a strong foundation for future IT planning. The summit served as a catalyst for stronger, global IT partnerships across all Prent sites.



## ▶ COMPAMED PROVES BENEFICIAL TO PRENT

In November, Prent Corporation's sales teams traveled from China, Europe, and Malaysia to join forces and meet with new and existing partners at the Prent exhibit at Compamed trade fair in Düsseldorf, Germany. Prent was one of 750 suppliers that demonstrated their expertise in key technologies for the medical industry at the 2024 event. The trade fair was comprised of 5,800 exhibits from 72 nations housing representatives sharing their expertise with 80,000 visitors from 165 countries. The next Compamed event will be November 17-20, 2025.



## ▶ PRENT MALAYSIA

Prent Malaysia held its annual employee celebration with dinner and dancing in November. 210 employees embraced the "Around-the-world" theme by dressing in vibrant, cultural costumes. The atmosphere was lively and engaging throughout the evening, with staff performances, games, and a lucky draw contest. One of the key highlights was the awards presentation for all 29 long-service employees, including Lead Pricing Specialist Fou Kiew Yoon who celebrated 25 years. The recognition event was well received by all employees in attendance.



## PRENT CHINA AIMS TO ENHANCE TEAM COMMUNICATION WITH EXCURSION ACTIVITIES

Prent China successfully launched a variety of engaging excursions in 2024 aimed at enhancing team communication and providing employees with a brief break from work responsibilities.

In a departure from previous years, Prent China embraced a new approach to organizing these outings by inviting the departments to take the lead, rather than relying solely on the HR team.

Representatives from each department collaborated to gather employee feedback and tailor activities to meet specific interests and needs of their teams.

The design team arranged a scenic rafting trip at Tong Lu in Zhejiang in September (*top left*).

HR collaborated with Finance and MIS teams for a unique pottery culture trip to Jingdezhen in Jiangxi where they enjoyed a hands-on experience with this traditional craft (*top middle*).

The QA team enjoyed a scenic retreat to Qiandao Lake in Zhejiang in November where they took in breathtaking views and engaged in nature (*top right*).

Manufacturing, the largest department, arranged three different destinations in

early November. One group embarked on a hiking trip at Shaoxing, Zhejiang. One group chose to visit Songcheng Scenic Area in Hangzhou to experience ancient Chinese culture. And, the third group indulged in the local cuisine at Yang Cheng Lake in Jiangsu (*all featured in the bottom row*).

These well-received, diverse, outdoor experiences fostered teamwork and relieved stress. Smiles from employees captured in the above photos clearly reflect the popularity and success of these exceptional excursion activities.

LET'S GET

### TECHNICAL: DEEP DRAW

Prent can customize its thermoformers to accommodate a depth of draw of up to 8 inches (double the 4-inch draw of a standard thermoformer in the market) for larger medical device components that require packaging. As a rule, the deeper the thermoform, the heavier the starting gauge of the plastic required. Prent is capable of utilizing 0.070 max gauge thickness in HIPS, and 0.060 in PETG medical grade material. Customers can leverage this deep draw technology at Prent Baja, China, Malaysia, Puerto Rico, and Wisconsin sites. Prent Corporation has the capability to see an industry need and develop a solution to satisfy it. For more details, email [sales@prent.com](mailto:sales@prent.com).

**CARL PETRICK**  
Prent Wisconsin Technician  
2/19/92 - 9/12/24



We congratulate Carl Petrick, Prent Wisconsin Technician, on his retirement! His positive attitude and dedication over the last 32 years have been greatly appreciated.

His retirement plans include visiting his son in the military out East, hunting and fishing locally, and volunteering at veteran organizations.



## PRENT MALAYSIA FOSTERS SUSTAINABLE HEALTHY LIVING

Prent Malaysia has committed to fostering a healthy lifestyle while prioritizing environmental sustainability with a new initiative that seamlessly blends health consciousness with eco-friendly practices.

Last quarter, Prent Malaysia distributed fresh oranges to all employees to promote healthy snacking while laying the foundation for a sustainability project.

Prent Malaysia's Quality Assurance and Human Resource teams spearheaded a workshop that created eco-friendly, non-toxic, enzyme cleaners using leftover orange peels. The innovative approach reduced waste and encouraged practical skills to help employees make a difference at work and at home.

The enzyme cleaners are effective alternatives to chemical-laden cleaning products, aligning with Prent's goal to promote a greener workplace. This initiative underscores Prent's belief that sustainability starts with small steps. By turning waste into something valuable, Prent demonstrated how each of us can contribute to a healthier planet.

## DANISH ARCHITECTURE INFLUENCES PRENT'S 2024 HOLIDAY PACKAGING DESIGN

Showcasing the artistic capabilities of the Prent Wisconsin and Denmark Design teams, led by Prent Design Manager Emil Pedersen, this season's innovative holiday ornament packaging was influenced by a Danish architectural lamp. Whether you feel the design resembles a pinecone, artichoke, hops bud, or lotus flower, the assembly borrows themes from nature while providing eloquent protection for the delicate bulb inside. The package can sit upright or be inverted to hang on a Christmas tree, and the design



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Happy New Year!

January is a fitting time for Prent not only to reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, but also to plan our future goals for the new year as they relate to our partners, our customers, our internal teams, and the future of thermoforming.

Prent will continue to lean into our plans to grow our global footprint and advance our technology in 2025. Our new Prent Texas facility, the Prent Denmark expansion, and the completion of two secondary automation cells this past year created greater capacity and easier access to customers in multiple regions.

The five-axis mill capability at our newly constructed Innovation Center at Prent Headquarters in Wisconsin is an investment in the future of technology in our industry. This ground-breaking, onsite technology will ensure even higher quality and more efficient production than ever before. We are excited to bring this technology to more of our locations around the globe.

Prent also remains committed to quality and safety, training in manufacturing, and executing our business plans in 2025.

And, we will continue to support our education partners to ensure a thriving manufacturing workforce for generations to come.

Prent's global engineering, information technology, and product development summits in 2024 fostered collaboration, promoted quality control and efficiency, and strengthened our workforce with the sharing of knowledge and best practices—all of which directly benefit our customers around the globe. This alignment and integration will be a priority again in the new year.

We'll also continue incorporating sustainable principles in the way we operate, and the products we design and manufacture in 2025, all while helping our customers achieve their sustainability goals.

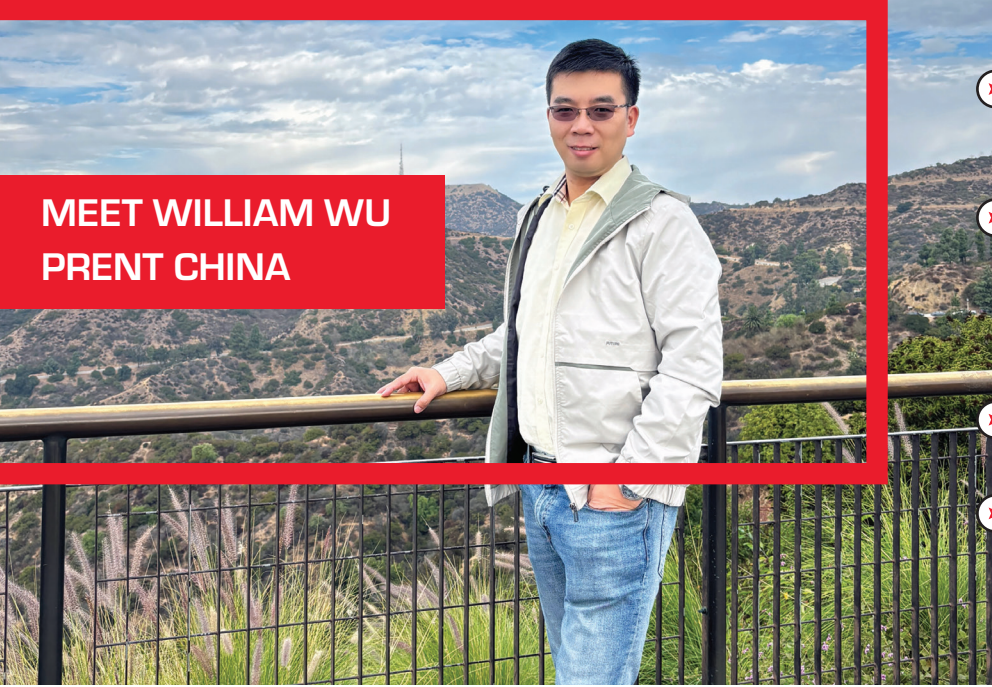
I wish all of you a happy, healthy and prosperous new year!

—Joe Pregont II, Prent President of North America

features functional petals thermoformed from RE•COVER™ CP305 recycled PETG material that protects the ornament. This medical-grade polyester utilizes lot-traceable regrind at the center of each sheet, addressing the ever-increasing demand for sustainable material solutions. Internal straps holding the petals in place are constructed of MEDPET®90 medical-grade PET that is #1 recyclable. And, the hang tag, protected by Prent's Pretect TPU tip protector, highlights automated laser etching capabilities. Happy holidays from all of us around the world at Prent!



## EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES



### MEET WILLIAM WU PRENT CHINA

William Wu began working at Prent China in 2008. He was the first Design Engineer responsible for thermoforming part and tool design.

He was promoted to Senior Design Engineer, and subsequently promoted to Design and Tooling Manager during his tenure. Currently, Wu serves as Product Development Director. He manages departmental operations and is responsible for projects from the initial design to completion and piloting.

Wu was born and raised in Ningxia, which is in the northwestern part of China. He majored in material forming and control engineering. Prior to his employment at Prent, he had experience at the Japanese company HINOMOTO as a design engineer.

**I am very proud that we have a wonderful team with a strong spirit. We support each other whenever necessary—not only between the Prent China departments, but also between all of Prent’s sites. We are like one big team and family,” Wu said.**

Outside of work, Wu enjoys reading, watching films, and comics.

Wu has a fond first memory before going to Prent Malaysia for design training when he created a medical tray design concept for a local customer. “On my first day in Malaysia, my new boss, Siek CW, shared the customer’s feedback about my design concept. The initial tray design was with square pockets, more steps, and a less smooth surface. The customer felt it was an ‘outdated design.’ Obviously, my first design concept in Prent was unsuccessful and I felt a little dispirited,” Wu said.

“With Siek’s guidance I recreated a 3D model of the tray, used more rounded pockets with a bigger radius, and curved feature lines. I also added undercut features at a pocket sidewall for snapping with a retainer, and I added gripping function,” he says. “I balanced the tray function design for production. Finally, the part design looked more professional and it was approved.”

“This was an unforgettable experience that taught me to do things right the first time, which promoted the high quality design and production that Prent is known for around the world.”

- ▶ **25<sup>th</sup>** Troy Benson Wisconsin  
Muhamad Izan Bin Ibrahim Malaysia  
Teresa Sanders Wisconsin
- ▶ **20<sup>th</sup>** Lee Moy Kiang China  
Heling Liu China  
Jeremy Rote Wisconsin  
Zhen Wang China  
Ju Xu China
- ▶ **15<sup>th</sup>** Allen Li China  
Jennie Wu China
- ▶ **10<sup>th</sup>** Cheryl Cleasby Wisconsin  
Ulises Hernandez Costa Rica  
Wei Yen Leong Malaysia  
Hongying Li China  
Carlos Mendez Puerto Rico  
Emily O’Brien Wisconsin  
Miranda Severance Wisconsin  
Xiurong Shao China  
Bouasavanh Sihabouth Wisconsin  
Denise Struebin Wisconsin  
Guiping Tian China  
Dalitza Torres Puerto Rico  
Gilberto Vasquez Puerto Rico  
Haiyan Yang China  
Lijuan Zhao China
- ▶ **5<sup>th</sup>** Louise Bengtsson Denmark  
Christopher Clawson Wisconsin  
Leonardo Colin Wisconsin  
Lindsey Eiden Wisconsin  
Xiaoguo Fang China  
Luis Feliciano Puerto Rico  
Noah Graves Wisconsin  
Jonathan Hernandez Ruiz Wisconsin  
Hazel Jiang China  
Francine Kelly Arizona  
Guo Li China  
Lin Li China  
Ling Lu China  
Melvin Rivera Lopez Puerto Rico  
Angel Mihaylov Denmark  
Paul Roloff Wisconsin  
Yuzhu Tang China  
Juntai Wang China  
Jia Wang China  
Dustin Wilson Wisconsin  
Suqiong Yang China  
Zhenglian Yu China  
Kevin Zaragoza Puerto Rico  
Yanxue Zhang China  
Xiaolei Zheng China  
Indiana Santika Malaysia



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**PRENT ARIZONA** participated in the American Cancer Society Climb to Conquer Cancer event in Flagstaff, AZ on September 7. With a donation of \$2,785, Prent Arizona ranked in the top ten teams with the highest contributions.



**PRENT DENMARK** garnered national recognition as a Gazelle Award recipient for its positive development in Europe again this year. The honor is awarded by the *Boersen* newspaper to companies that create a substantial amount of exponential growth. It is an indicator that Prent Denmark is among the fastest growing and well-performing companies in Denmark. "It is a great honor for the team to receive such an award for their dedicated work," Prent Denmark Managing Director Peter Bay said.



**PRENT WISCONSIN** held a Global Design Summit in the fall to review best known methods, address any differences, and explore innovations and improvements shared across all Prent sites. The event brought together product development engineers from Denmark, Malaysia, Shanghai, and Wisconsin. The summit proved to be highly productive and insightful, resulting in several strategic action items to shape the future of Prent Corporation's global product development.



## ZIMMER BIOMET NAMES PRENT CHINA 2024 SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR FOR QUALITY

In November, Prent China was recognized by Zimmer Biomet as an exceptional, quality, thermoform solution provider in the Chinese medical market. Prent China competed with over 400 suppliers for the Zimmer Biomet Supplier of the Year - Excellence Quality Award. APAC Sourcing Director Elaine He was one of the representatives presenting the award to Prent China Quality Assurance Director Sean Xiao (*pictured above*).

### PRENT CUSTOMERS BENEFIT FROM INFORMATION SHARING

Zimmer Biomet also invited Prent China to exchange thermoforming design, production, and quality control process validation knowledge with its teams in Changzhou, Jinghua, and Beijing. J&J Suzhou and Prent's domestic medical customer Synaptic also invited Prent China to engage in quality sharing, respectively, on October 23 and November 21.

## A FOND FAREWELL TO THESE PRENT RETIREES

**ROSEMARY LOGAN** Prent Arizona Inspector/Packer 10/6/08 - 11/25/24

Rosemary plans to sew, hike, travel, do home repairs, and enjoy time with family.

**BEVERLY CHURCHILL** Prent Wisconsin Cleaning Staff 10/5/20 - 12/2/24

Beverly will enjoy spending time with her dog and completing house projects.

**RHONDA PECKHAM** Prent Wisconsin Inspector/Packer 11/20/14 - 12/12/24

Rhonda plans to take time to relax, and spend more time with family and friends.

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*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.*