



## PRENT CHINA CONTINUES DEVELOPING ADVANCED AUTOMATION LINES

Prent China is navigating a critical and demanding period, marked by new developments to the Generation 2.0 component automation line, as well as a significant increase in high-volume mass productions, all while retaining the reliable and consistent high-quality products their customers have come to know and love. With multiple high-volume projects ramping up simultaneously, the company faces challenges due to labor shortages, particularly during the recent Chinese New Year holiday.

In light of these challenges, it has become essential for Prent China to effectively develop automation lines for new projects and initiate high-volume manufacturing (HVM) before the ramp-up stage. This proactive strategy aims to ensure that high-volume parts meet the agreed-upon quality specifications, while minimizing manpower requirements.

Drawing on the experience gained from past projects, the Process Engineering team has launched a new Auto-PSA taping line for Generation 2.0. Despite

the numerous design changes, collaboration with the automation supplier enabled the engineering team to integrate the automation line within just six weeks. Thanks to substantial support from the supplier, machine commissioning was completed in a remarkably short two-week period, greatly contributing to the successful launch of the new component product in a scheduled manner.

Several technical breakthroughs, including the integration of AI elements into the automation process, have significantly exceeded the previously established output targets. This adaptability to new technologies and innovation underscores Prent China's commitment to addressing challenges and fulfilling the demands of a rapidly evolving market.

As the year progresses, Prent China continues to focus on improving its operational efficiency and ensuring a successful rollout of its high-volume projects, positioning itself for ongoing growth and success in the industry.

## PRENT HOLDS PANEL ON SUPPLY CHAIN SUSTAINABILITY AT THE MD&M WEST TRADESHOW

Prent's Vice President of Product Development, Don Handrow, had the honor of presenting a panel discussion at the Medical Design & Manufacturing (MD&M) West Tradeshow on the topic of "Sustainability of Medical Polymers Throughout the Product Lifecycle," where he addressed how medical device manufacturers like Prent can work collaboratively with suppliers to enhance supply chain sustainability.

"In order to stay relevant, push your suppliers," says Handrow. "We challenge each other all the time, with great material solutions evolving out of industry needs." When it comes to sustainable practices, Handrow's motto is to start early. He says starting early with the "little things" that can grow will make reaching your sustainability goals easier in the future. By challenging old ways of thinking, Prent and other companies can drive real, effective change.

The annual tradeshow occurred in February in Anaheim, California. Innovators and experts from across the country attended to connect and learn about the latest technologies and advancements in the MedTech, design and manufacturing, automation and plastics sectors. Prent exhibited at the tradeshow and was able to engage with over 100 current and prospective customers, as well as several suppliers and other medical device industry experts.

# PRENT DENMARK HOSTS MAYOR OF HOLBAEK



*Pictured, left to right: Frederik Dyring, Operation Manager; Christina Krzyrosiak Hansen, Mayor of Holbaek; Peter Bay, Managing Director.*

Prent Denmark had the privilege of hosting the Mayor of Holbaek, Christina Krzyrosiak Hansen, at their facility, where she had the opportunity to learn more about their thermoforming operation and see the progress of their site expansion.

During her visit, the mayor gained a deeper understanding of Prent, which left a strong impression on her. She acknowledged the ongoing positive impact made on the community and expressed her sincere appreciation for the team's dedication and continued commitment. The mayor's visit highlights Prent Denmark's growth and further reinforces their recognition as one of the preferred workplaces in the region of Holbaek.



## GET TO KNOW: DEAN ELLISON, PRENT WISCONSIN PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Dean Ellison began his tenure at Prent in 1983. In his 42 years at the company, he has been involved in designing and building anything that the company may need, including show displays, repairing machinery, improving the tool building operations and more.

Ellison was born and raised in Janesville, Wisconsin, where he learned about machining from his father. Prent offered the ability to apply what his father taught him while also enjoying those he worked with. Ellison joined soon after graduating high school and is one of the last employees hired by Prent's founder, Jack Pregont, to still be working at Prent. Ellison contributes his longevity to his ability to learn from all the great machinists and mentors that have come and gone from Prent over the past 42 years.

Outside of work, Ellison's love for building and fixing things doesn't stop. From the countless European motorcycles he has refurbished to all of the machinery and equipment that have been written off as junk, Ellison continues to bring life back into what others have forgotten.

He recalls combining this love for machinery repair with his work expertise. "We had a machine that stopped working. The company that made it said they could no longer repair it. I asked if I could take a look. Eventually, I was able to get it working again."

When talking about his time at Prent, Ellison continues to encourage people to learn and break out of their comfort zone. "When I was younger, my dad would take me places and show me different industries and machine shops. I loved seeing and learning what was possible." Ellison continues to tell everyone, "Don't be afraid to fail – learn from your mistakes."

He brings it back to how he got his experience with Prent. "I've learned how to build so many things and create more. I started by learning from people who had more experience. I learned and took it my own way."

“ I like teaching people. When the younger employees come through, getting them involved quickly is important. Most young people starting are nervous, but I like to encourage and help them learn, get them out there to do things, even if they fail. Prent has allowed me to do many things I never thought I would do. It has been my home and career for over 42 years. Thank you to Jack for taking a chance on a young man just out of high school and giving him the chance to learn and grow with Prent. ”





## PRENT PRESENTS AT THE ASQ LEAN AND SIX SIGMA CONFERENCE IN PHOENIX

Prent recently sent three employees to the American Society for Quality's (ASQ) Lean and Six Sigma Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. The annual conference focuses on practical ways to grow and implement Lean Six Sigma principles in industries and business sectors, ranging from traditional manufacturing to government and not-for-profits.

Prent's Director of Quality Assurance, Peter Augelli, had the opportunity to present at the conference. His presentation "The Miyagi-Do of Lean: How the humblest of Lean tools work to create a foundation of learning," focused on using simple tools, including tiered meetings, the 5S method (sort, set in order, shine, standardize and sustain) and Gemba walks. He explained how these tools can be used together to help develop staff and teach continuous improvement and the seven quality principles that build into larger transformational improvements.

## PRENT BAJA CELEBRATES 730 DAYS WITHOUT ACCIDENTS

In January, Prent Baja held a celebration for achieving 730 days with no accidents. The celebration included tacos asada and a piñata. Prent Baja's new goal is to reach 1,000 days with no accidents!



## LET'S GET TECHNICAL

## THERMOFORMING TOLERANCE IN NONMEDICAL BUSINESS

Did you know that Prent is capable of precision thermoforming, producing automation trays and components for high-end products? Our advanced technology enables us to achieve tolerances as tight as  $\pm 0.002"$ , ensuring superior automation robustness and product functionality. This level of precision is made possible through continuous advancements in three key areas:

1. Tooling: At Prent, precision begins with cutting-edge tooling. We invest heavily in our state-of-the-art tool-building facilities, featuring 3-axis and 5-axis CNC mills, high-speed spindles, tool balancers and more.
2. Machine: A great design deserves a flawless execution. Our built-in-house machines feature customized oven layouts, perfectly matched to specific tooling configurations.

3. Measurement: Did you know that measurement variation can impact overall precision just as much as part variation? That's why we invest in high-accuracy measurement equipment to minimize variability and ensure top-tier precision.

### EXPANDING THERMOFORMING APPLICATIONS

Thanks to our expertise in precision thermoforming, more industries are transitioning from injection-molded parts to thermoformed solutions. Thermoforming is more cost efficient, more lightweight and has a shorter lead time than injection molding.

Want to explore how Prent can support your next project with cutting-edge thermoforming solutions? Email us at [sales@prent.com](mailto:sales@prent.com).

# SUSTAINABILITY CORNER: STANDARDIZING SUSTAINABILITY METRICS ACROSS PRENT LOCATIONS

At Prent, employing sustainable practices is of the utmost importance. To further our dedication to sustainability, in 2023 we created a formal sustainability management program to better address and direct these practices across all Prent locations.

Prioritizing sustainability allows for many benefits to Prent as a corporation, including decreased costs, increased employee satisfaction and increased customer interest due to the growing desirability of sustainable products among our customer bases.

Sustainability management has allowed us to align the company on a standardized set of metrics based on the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board's (SASB) container and packaging standards. These metrics fall under the three pillars of People, Planet and Products. These benchmarks help us to effectively monitor our progress and provide us with insights on how we can

further strengthen our sustainability performance and projects.

For example, within the "People" pillar, we implemented a sustainability mission statement and corporate responsibility policy. Under the "Planet" pillar, we have begun calculating our corporate greenhouse gas emissions annually. For the "Products" pillar, Prent offers sustainable products and has implemented a sustainable procurement program with suppliers.

Looking forward, as we continue to cultivate our sustainability practices, one of our long-term goals is to receive a favorable EcoVadis rating. EcoVadis is a sustainability risk platform highly favored by our customers. Achieving a favorable EcoVadis rating would emphasize our continued dedication to sustainability to our customers and highlight additional ways we can improve our efforts going forward.

## PRENT CHINA CELEBRATES 2024 LONG SERVICE AWARDS

Prent China proudly hosted its 2024 Service Awards Ceremony at the Sheraton Shanghai Jiading Hotel last fall. There were 90 participants, including members of the management team, service award recipients, and members of the employee activity committee who attended the event ceremony.

The management team presented service awards to 69 employees who achieved various long service milestones, including 32 for 5 years, 25 for 10 years, six for 15 years and six for 20 years. Notably, this was the first-ever 20-year service award, a testament to our workforce's exceptional loyalty and dedication. Mr. Bjarne Uhde Nielsen, CEO and President of Prent Eurasia, participated online in the event and delivered a heartfelt speech acknowledging the recipients' contributions to the company's growth and success.

Employees appreciated the opportunity to participate and emphasized that such recognition boosts morale and strengthens the company culture.



## ANNIVERSARIES

### 35 YEARS

Cynthia Badtke	Janesville
Dana Gudgeon	Janesville
Troy McCann	Janesville

### 30 YEARS

Elaine Peterson	Janesville
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### 20 YEARS

Zaifol Bin Yahya	Malaysia
S. Norasikin Binti Supok	Malaysia
Patricia Burrow	Janesville
Tanya Gomez-Alverson	Janesville
David Lin	China
Chee Woei Sim	Malaysia

### 15 YEARS

Briane Benn	Janesville
Mohamad Bin Bakar	Malaysia
Sun Shen	China
Maribeth Wade	Janesville

### 10 YEARS

Amirul Anwar Bin Maliki	Malaysia
Syahrul Anuar Bin Suppian	Malaysia
Frederik Dyring	Denmark
Wan Zuo Kerk	Malaysia
Susan Olsen	Janesville
Sigfredo Rios	Puerto Rico
Jackie Rudolph	Janesville
Sasha Werhane	Janesville
Denise Woodard	Janesville

### 5 YEARS

Dylan Anderson	Janesville
Michelle Caraballo	Puerto Rico
Barbara Dascher	Janesville
James Doberstein	Janesville
Stephanie Goodman	Janesville
Gaiyun Guo	China
Carly Hayden	Janesville
Jordan Kutz	Janesville
Zhengying Ma	China
Teresa Miller	Janesville
Samantha Pyszka	Janesville
Jessica Sagen	Janesville
Riley Struebin	Janesville
Liuliu Sun	China
Shubei Wei	China
Xiujuan Wu	China
Zhouli Xu	China
Junjie Zhou	China
Xiaoyan Zhu	China
Tammy Zumwalt	Janesville

## CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF DEDICATED EMPLOYEES

It is always an honor to recognize our tenured employees for their dedication and hard work. We are proud to be celebrating our Prent Wisconsin employees Cynthia Badtke, Dana Gudgeon and Troy McCann on 35 years as well as Elaine Peterson on 30 years with Prent. Congratulations on this remarkable achievement! Your commitment and service are commendable.

In light of these impressive milestones, we spoke with Cynthia Badtke and Elaine Peterson about their time at Prent.



**CYNTHIA BADTKE**

**Prent Wisconsin Inspector/Packer**

#### How did you first hear about Prent?

I heard about it from a past employee.

#### What drew you to working here?

The mini-shift hours worked great for me. I worked the four-hour shift in the morning, from 4 am to 8 am. I had two small children and was able to be home with them for the rest of the day because of the flexible hours.

#### How many different positions have you held at Prent?

I have had only one position, Inspector/Packer.

#### How has Prent changed since you were hired?

There have been a lot of changes. When I first started, everything was out in the open. The QA lab used to be out in the open as well. Prent has made a lot of improvements over the years.

#### What is the most meaningful part of your job?

The most meaningful part is making sure the parts that are then packed and shipped out to our customers are good parts, having no defects.



**ELAINE PETERSON**

**Prent Wisconsin Quality Assurance Inspector/Auditor**

#### How did you first hear about Prent?

My sister worked at Prent on Harding Street, the first Prent location that Jack Pregont started in 1967!

#### What drew you to working here?

When I started as a mini-shift Inspector/Packer, one of the benefits of the position was that we were allowed to take summers off. My kids were young, so spending the extra time with my family was perfect.

#### How many different positions have you held at Prent?

I started as a part-time Inspector/Packer, and now I'm a full-time QA Auditor/Inspector.

#### How did Prent help you in your career development?

I was able to learn on the job and gain invaluable insight from co-workers on my team.

#### How has Prent changed since you were hired?

I was hired after a phone interview. We had four-hour mini shifts then, A, B, C, D and E Shift. There were no Mods (Units), and we all rotated positions on the manufacturing floor. We now have clean rooms, five-hour shifts, and we have grown substantially. Prent is a great employer. They really encourage moving up in the company, and there are so many great employees.

#### What is the most meaningful part of your job?

The most meaningful part of my job is ensuring quality parts that meet specifications and get to our customers and then out into the medical field.



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## PRENT MALAYSIA ATTENDS INSIGHTS INTO MEDICAL PACKAGING AND STERILIZATION JOINT SEMINAR

In February, Prent had the privilege of participating in the Insights Into Medical Packaging and Sterilization event, jointly organized with DuPont, Grand Ten and Oliver at the Singapore Marriott Tang Plaza Hotel. The event brought together 49 participants from the medical device manufacturing (MDM) sector in Singapore.

Representing Prent, Mr. Sim Chee Woei (Senior Lead Design Engineer) delivered an insightful presentation on "Design It Right the First Time for Rigid Sealed-Sterile Trays." Sim highlighted effective design strategies for rigid sealed-sterile trays, emphasizing Prent's best-known methods to integrate quality into parts at optimal costs. The session sparked great engagement, with participants actively asking questions and showing strong interest in Prent's physical form tool presentation, which effectively demonstrated our forming process.

The event was a success, leading to two new potential business opportunities and a valuable network of key industry contacts.



*Pictured left to right are Prent employees: Ms. Choy Bei Yee (Senior QA Engineer) and Mr. Leow Wei Jie (Lead Design Engineer).*

## A FOND FAREWELL TO THESE PRENT RETIREES

**Patricia Burrow, Prent Wisconsin, Accounts Payable**

**2/14/05 – 3/6/25**

Patty is looking forward to spending cherished time with her children, grandchildren and mother. She's eager to immerse herself in more reading, enjoy the beauty of the outdoors and explore new destinations.

**Cheryl Cleasby, Prent Wisconsin, Part-Time Inspector/Packer**

**12/26/14 – 1/31/25**

In her retirement, Cheryl plans to spend time with her grandchildren, while also traveling, gardening and attending to various projects around the house.



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