

Customer Spotlight: Princeton Precision Group



Ken Bevington III, CEO of Princeton Precision Group

Simplifying the Supply Chain

From its first opportunity to implement a profile grinding machine in order to successfully complete a customer's large-platform aerospace part, [Princeton Precision Group](#) (PPG) has collaborated with UNITED GRINDING North America. PPG, a legacy precision machining company, has strived to become a preferred supplier for its customers, simplifying the supply chain.

"Grinding was a natural progression to increase our total work scope," said Ken Bevington III, CEO of PPG's six locations in three states. By combining its EDM and CNC machining focus with the rough and tight tolerance grinding offered by UNITED GRINDING North America's BLOHM surface and profile grinding machines, the company is catering to its aerospace and industrial gas turbine customers that manufacture the most sophisticated commercial and defense engines on the market.

PPG grinds the blades for these large engines that, according to Bevington, require a large machine to accommodate them. However, there are not many machines that can hold such a large blade, but BLOHM grinders have the capability—and the horsepower—to make the application successful.

UNSTOPPABLE GRIT

FOR IMTS 2024, UNITED GRINDING NORTH AMERICA IS CELEBRATING A CONCEPT KNOWN AS UNSTOPPABLE GRIT. IT RECOGNIZES THE TENACITY, STRENGTH AND CAN'T-QUIT SPIRIT FOUND IN SOME OF THE BEST PRECISION GRINDING COMPANIES.

Princeton Precision Group, with locations in three states, is one of these companies.



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Tool and Die Beginnings

[Princeton Tool](#) began in 1997, when Bevington's hard-working father opened his own tool and die shop in his basement when Bevington was a boy. The shop's basement location was short lived; it expanded to a pole barn next to their house, which filled up quickly with machine tools to run the business.

To his father's surprise, the company outgrew the pole barn, and continued to expand to three separate facilities in Mentor, Ohio.

When Bevington was old enough to work in the family business, he stayed in Ohio for a while, but then branched out to open the business in Florida. "I pitched him on using his business model in Tampa, so we started our first satellite facility there (Princeton Tool)," he explained.

With success and a couple acquisitions, the PPG umbrella now includes [Paragon Precision](#) in Valencia, California, and [Tampa Bay Machining Inc.](#) in Tampa, which specializes in turning and milling for many industries.

Getting into Grinding

PPG has been a successful manufacturer for many years, but it purchased its first grinding machines more recently, in 2021, when a customer's aerospace part demanded the operation.

PPG shopped around and, after researching BLOHM surface and profile grinding machines and value-adding services offered by UNITED GRINDING North America, its quest for the right equipment and partnership was fulfilled.

The PPG team was impressed with not only the technology but the customer service UNITED GRINDING North America offered. "From the start, there were conversations on the level of commitment from UGA stepping in and supporting us. It was 'let's talk through the part and make sure we have the right machine selected'," Bevington said. "There wasn't even a P.O. yet. There was just communication that we really responded to."

PPG currently owns two BLOHM surface and profile grinders: one at the Valencia location and the second at Mentor's Plant 2.

"In our industry, timing is everything," Bevington said. "When a product gets to this step in the router, we have to respond right away. With our inaugural part, UNITED GRINDING North America's application engineer was on site to work with our team, see our fixturing and how we're set up, and provide feedback or recommendations on how to improve."



Stop, Collaborate and Listen

One example of a stellar collaboration effort between the two companies can be found when PPG was developing the process to win the turbine manufacturing order. The team at PPG worked with the application engineering team at UNITED GRINDING North America to conduct cycle time and technical feasibility studies that were instrumental in helping PPG win the business.



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Bevington's advice to anyone considering purchasing a UNITED GRINDING machine starts with questioning the competition. "What is their technical capability? Do they truly know what you are trying to accomplish with the machine? Do they care about your success? Then, look at the value of the machine itself. These machines at UNITED GRINDING North America were built to last for a very long time. At the end of the day, UNITED GRINDING North America offers a robust and repeatable piece of equipment."

He added that UNITED GRINDING North America's design engineers possess a deep understanding of grinding technology. With the combination of a knowledgeable support team and highly accurate equipment that has a solid reputation in the industry, machine tool purchasers like Bevington can tackle their customers' grinding challenges with confidence.



UNITED GRINDING in its Future

Following its business model of "Always Advancing," PPG is ready to purchase more grinders from UNITED GRINDING North America to enhance its grinding capabilities. However, Bevington hopes to explore other areas of manufacturing as well.

"We will be looking at other technologies we can adopt. We are already involved in metal additive, so we will pursue some of those opportunities," Bevington said. "We want to keep up with the latest and the greatest."

Continuing its partnership with UNITED GRINDING North America for its grinding machines will certainly ensure that PPG has the most updated technology as well as the best and most reliable customer support in industry.

To experience world-class grinding technology and renowned customer support for yourself, [talk to UNITED GRINDING North America](#) about your application anytime.

