



Finn is all about innovation



For more than thirty years, FINN has proven its worth as a developer and manufacturer of high-quality, high-precision parts. Owner Peter van der Klok started the company in his garage in 1980. Today, FINN supplies products to a broad market on a global scale. "It's all about innovation."

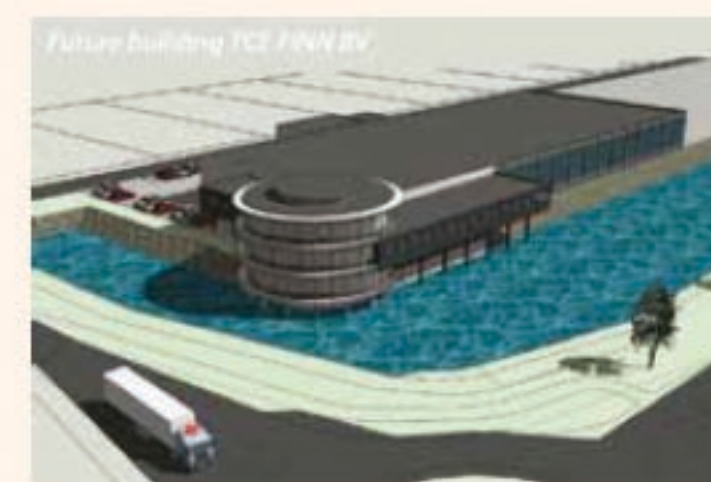
Finn's combination of creativity and technical ingenuity brought the Stadskanaal-based company to great heights. Into space, to be exact. "Right now, there are satellites floating somewhere above us that FINN supplied measurement instruments for," Van der Klok says. Thirty years ago, he had not expected in his wildest dreams that FINN would someday supply products for space programmes.

"That's how it went. Everyone has their own talents, and apparently I have a knack for creatively developing products. Over time, we introduced different products to the market. We kept growing bit by bit, and we have always kept our vision as broad as the market," Van der Klok continues. In this way FINN, now an ISO-certified company has become well-known for its successful continuous development of the 'klapschaats' (klapskate). It also supplies equipment parts for the Dutch Ministry of Defence, for environmental applications and the biomedical industry. During the Beijing Olympics,

FINN measurement instruments could be found throughout Beijing, gauging the quality of the air.

For the medical sector, FINN (Fijnmechanische Industrie Noord-Nederland BV) developed a system to keep donated organs 'fresh' for an extended period of time. "When people die and their organs have been made available for transplantation, those organs need to be transferred to someone else very quickly. Cooling the body through lavage, and then also cooling the organs, helps keep an organ in good condition for a much longer time. This development gives doctors more time, but also facilitates the transport of organs across the world." This cooling unit is currently in the production stage and will soon become operational.

It sounds like a simple idea; however development is very expensive in time, money and resources. "We are a strongly innovative enterprise," Van der Klok comments. "Take the development of the klapskate. Other manufacturers have not improved the system at all since it was first introduced. At FINN, we are continuously researching how the klap system could function better. That makes all the difference." For research, FINN utilizes an array of machinery that allows for virtually every type of materials processing. We use equipment from 5-axis sequential milling and barrel polishing to



turning on a lathe, milling and polishing to get the job done. "We can provide our customers with a complete solution. We take care of the engineering, the development of a product and then the production."

Van der Klok looks to the future with FINN's typical innovative outlook. "The company is all about innovation. We acquired a patent for the klapski this spring. It's a new kind of langlauf-ski, for cross-country, that is based on the klapskate. That is a great development. We keep looking for new innovations. Both to continue FINN's success, and to contribute our bit to society."

