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IntelliMold Introduces IntelliMold™ XtraSoft™ at Plastec West Expo

Process offers Soft-touch from One-shot Molding of Two Materials

Ann Arbor, Mich. – IntelliMold today introduced its new XtraSoft™ process, available exclusively for licensees of its proprietary injection molding technology IntelliMold™. The company made the announcement today at the Plastec West Exposition at the Anaheim Convention Center in Anaheim, Calif.

XtraSoft™ is the process used to create the “soft touch” for the Xtralloy™ family of technologies offered with the IntelliMold system. XtraSoft™ is the result of IntelliMold combining two materials that are simultaneously injected into the mold cavity to produce both a core and soft skin affect. The core and the skin are then bonded together through boundary layers that contain both materials. This unique process squeezes the lighter material to the surface while the heavier material forms the core. Under traditional injection molding, the product would have to be processed in a more timely and costly two-step process.

“Automotive manufacturers are always seeking new ways to apply softer surfaces within their vehicles,” said Milko Gergov, IntelliMold Vice President of Technology. “By using IntelliMold with XtraSoft™, a major automotive manufacturer recently introduced a soft touch storage bin, which was less costly, more durable, had a much better feel and was easier to install than competitive offerings. We are currently developing applications for a variety of products using a wide variety of new material blends that can replace soft touch paint, co-injection molding or two-shot molding.”

“XtraSoft™ offers a softer, more aesthetically appealing product for less cost and higher quality than alternative processes. As a result, we are seeing an increasing number of requests from manufacturers in a variety of industries about XtraSoft™ technologies,” said Rob Redmer, IntelliMold Director of Sales & Marketing. “We believe that there are significant growth opportunities for XtraSoft™, and we’re just scratching the surface of the thousands of possible material blends and combinations.”

IntelliMold™ is the first injection molding technology that measures and controls pressure and temperature inside the mold cavity. By operating like an autopilot, it achieves enhanced, consistent performance for injection molding machines. IntelliMold is applicable in a wide range of industries, including medical products, automotive, telecommunications, electronics, aerospace, appliances, and sporting goods. IntelliMold reduces cycle times, scrap and rework, shrink, warping and sinks, while offering improved surface quality and repeatability. IntelliMold closed-loop control technology significantly improves performance and productivity for injection molders. More information on IntelliMold can be found at www.intellimold.com.