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New IntelliMold™ XtraLite™ Process Significantly Reduces Molded Part Weight

NEW YORK, (June 6) - IntelliMold is making its new XtraLite™ process available with licenses of its IntelliMold™ technology. The company made the announcement today at the co-located Plastec East and Medical Device and Manufacturing expositions at Jacob Javitz Center. The newly developed XtraLite technology enables licensees to significantly reduce the weight of injection molded parts without compromising surface quality.

IntelliMold closed-loop control technology significantly improves performance and productivity for injection molders. One of its enhancements is the ability to reduce part weight. Adding XtraLite to IntelliMold will enable users to achieve weight reductions that are comparable or even better than current microcellular foaming processes, but at a fraction of the investment. Further, XtraLite does not require machine or mold exclusivity, or the use of additional equipment.

The most significant benefit XtraLite delivers is the ability to use it to mold parts that require a class-A surface.

"That's been an issue with microcellular foaming," said Jerry Mosingo, Executive Vice President of Manufacturing Operations, Textron Automotive Trim. "We don't believe it performs well for molding parts that require a class-A surface. As the mold cavity fills, IntelliMold ensures that the plastic, not the blowing agent, reaches the surface of the part. The result is a lighter part with a smooth, high-quality finish."

"We molded three identical parts using conventional injection molding, microcellular foaming, and IntelliMold with XtraLite," he said. "The part molded using microcellular foaming achieved a 12 percent weight reduction over conventional molding, but its surface was not class-A quality and couldn't be painted. However, the part molded using XtraLite achieved even greater weight reduction. It was 15 percent lighter than the conventionally molded part and had a smooth, paintable class-A surface."



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. More information on IntelliMold and XtraLite can be found at www.intellimold.com.

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