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Trexel's New Series III MuCell® System for small, precision parts now offered at breakthrough price. Series III customer mold trials available at Arburg's new Customer Center in Lossburg, Germany.

Series III MuCell® system, including screw and tip (up to 40mm screw size) now priced at €40000 when purchased with a new injection molding machine. Innovative system brings excellent dimensional stability, along with weight reduction, cost and productivity advantages to E/E applications on Arburg's smaller hydraulic and electric machines.

Siegen, Germany, October XX, 2008 – Trexel GmbH has announced an inclusive pricing structure, including screw and tip for Trexel's Series III MuCell® system. Trexel pricing for the Series III in Europe has been set at €40000 when sold with a new injection molding machine. At the same time, Arburg and Trexel announce that Trexel's Series III MuCell® technology is now available for mold trials on different small hydraulic injection molding machines at Arburg's technology center at the headquarters in Lossburg, Germany. At the present time, three hydraulic Allrounder S machines with screw diameters of either 20mm, 30mm and 40mm are available and may be scheduled for trials. Customers may contact either their Trexel or Arburg representative for more information and/or to schedule machine time.

Dr. Hartmut Traut, Business Director – Europe for Trexel said, "These aggressive commercial actions we announce today reinforce our commitment to bringing very cost-effective, advanced microcellular molding solutions for the new generation of demanding E/E and precision component applications.

We're obviously very excited to be working closely with Arburg on customer mold trials, and we look forward to demonstrating the performance of our Series III technology on Arburg's world-class line of hydraulic and electric machines."

Reiner Schmid, Arburg Applications Customer Support, said, "This partnership between our two companies is designed to make the MuCell® Process available to both our and Trexel's customers on our high-performance hydraulic Allrounder S and electric Allrounder A machines. This is one part of Arburg's continuous drive to bring new technology and solutions to our customers. We have conducted an extensive evaluation of the Series III MuCell® Technology and confirmed the value it delivers. We think the Series III will bring new levels of value and performance to smaller applications on our smaller machines up to a clamping force of 1.500 kN. It's a great combination," he said.

In addition, Arburg officials suggest that while many companies currently seek dimensionally stable parts, until now they did not have the option of a packaged, competitively priced MuCell® platform, and would find the Arburg/Trexel combination particularly attractive.

Dr. Hartmut Traut, Business Director – Europe for Trexel said, "We believe that the availability of a standard SIII MuCell® system sold with a new injection molding machine will find wide application as a cost-effective solution used across numerous industries. When combined with the new Series III System, molders who use a smaller machine for precision molding applications will now be able to take advantage of the MuCell® Process." Trexel and Arburg officials predict that the new Arburg and Trexel technology combination will be attractive to users who need dimensional stability on thin wall parts and are looking to add MuCell® capability when purchasing a new injection molding machine.

A series of industrial trials conducted over the course of the past year by Trexel on a wide variety of machines from different manufacturers suggest that Series III users will see significant improvements in several key quality and performance measures, including significant improvements in dimensional stability, along with up to 35% reductions in cycle time, dramatic reductions in clamping force, plus moderate expected savings in material usage, depending on the application and material used.

More About the Trexel Series III MuCell® System

The Series III was designed to be especially advantageous to E/E applications and precision components manufacturers, and is useful with injection molding machines with screw sizes up to 40mm, and with applications that run cycles of 12 seconds or longer. It features the world's first all-electric discontinuous dosing system for microcellular foaming. The Series III SCF System uses a unique and patented pulse dosing technology to provide accurate and repeatable discontinuous dosing for MuCell® microcellular foam production.



Figure 1

The Series III MuCell® system, shown here at Arburg's Technology Center in Lossburg, Germany, has been designed for seamless integration into factory-supplied injection molding machine designs.

(Photo – Arburg)

A key design feature of the Series III MuCell® system is that gas compression is accomplished with an electric drive motor instead of air driven pumps. By using this advanced and cost efficient design, TREXEL can offer substantial savings to the customer. Trexel projects this will help to reduce the required maintenance activities by 50% compared to the Series II MuCell® system. In addition there is almost no in-service demand on shop air (1,4 Liter/min. at STP @ 4,5 bar versus Series II requirements at start-up of 2.500 Liter/min. at STP @ 5,5 bar).

The Series III SCF system is designed to take a supply of nitrogen from a high-pressure cylinder and provide a precise dose of nitrogen at a chosen set point. The nitrogen supply is fed to a gas piston. An electric drive motor is attached to the gas piston, compressing the nitrogen in the gas piston to a predetermined pressure. This pressure becomes the supply pressure for the hardware required for a pulse dosing system.

The Series III system is offered as a stand-alone package for those customers who do not want an integrated system. However, Trexel will also sell the Series III MuCell® system designed for

seamless integration by injection molding machine manufacturers into their existing and new small machine designs.

More About MuCell® Technology

The MuCell® Microcellular Foam technology is a complete process and equipment technology that enables the production of extremely high quality plastic parts. MuCell® Technology involves the use of precisely metered quantities of atmospheric gases (nitrogen or carbon dioxide) in any of the three most common thermoplastic conversion processes (injection molding, extrusion, blow molding) to create millions of nearly invisible microcells in the end product. The creation of these microcellular structures brings a wide array of benefits including reduced weight, reduced material usage and reduced production costs.

The MuCell® process is primarily employed in the injection molding process to produce lower cost precision parts with a consistently high quality and exceptional dimensional stability, where foaming has not historically been deployed.

Microcellular foaming technology was originally conceptualized and invented at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and in 1995 Trexel was granted an exclusive worldwide license for the further development and commercialization of the technology. Today there are hundreds of MuCell® parts, both molded and extruded in commercial production today around the world and in excess of 300 machines in operation. Examples of MuCell® products include electrical components, electronics connectors, internal business equipment and printer components, a variety of packaging applications and a broad array of automotive products including HVAC components. To support global adoption, Trexel has established a global network of exclusive manufacturing relationships to produce the company's proprietary precision engineering equipment. MuCell® support centers are located in the U.S., Germany, Japan, Hong Kong, China, Singapore, Australia and Korea.

About Trexel

Trexel is the exclusive developer of the MuCell® microcellular foam technology and has an extensive portfolio of patents in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Japan, Korea, and Asia. Trexel's primary business is the supply of MuCell® Systems for the production of foamed injection molded and extruded articles. It also provides world-class engineering support, training and other services, and the equipment and components integral to the MuCell® process. In support of these activities, Trexel operates a foamed plastics development laboratory in its Woburn, MA facility.

For more information, please visit Trexel at www.trexel.com.

About Arburg

Arburg, a German machine construction company, is one of the leading global manufacturers of injection moulding machines for plastics processing with clamping forces between 125 kN and 5,000 kN. Fields of application include the production of plastic parts for motor vehicles, communications and consumer electronics, medical technology, domestic appliances and packaging. The product range is completed by robotic systems, complex projects and other peripherals. Arburg's operations are coordinated by an integrated management system and are DIN EN ISO 9001 and 14001 certified. Arburg is represented by its own organisations in 23 countries at 31 locations and by trading partners in more than 50 countries. However, the machines are produced exclusively in the parent factory in Lossburg (Germany) – with the mark of quality “made by Arburg – made in Germany”. From a total of more than 2,000 Arburg employees, around 1,700 work in Germany. Around 330 further employees work at the worldwide Arburg organisations.

Further information about Arburg can be found at www.arburg.com

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