

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Newly developed MuCell® blow molding process  
for automotive plastic parts offers  
significant weight savings**

*Achieved 32% weight savings and improved thermal and acoustic insulation characteristics with automotive air duct application*

**(Trexel, Inc., Wilmington, MA October 16, 2013)**... As a leader in providing lightweighting solutions to the plastics injection molding industry, Trexel, Inc. has extended its MuCell processing solution to blow molded automotive components. In working closely with their OEM and Tier I customers, the company has recognized the need for lightweighting plastic parts beyond the traditional and proven injection molded interior, exterior and under the hood applications.

To develop this robust MuCell blow molding process Trexel worked with ABC Group in Toronto Canada, one of the leading providers of blow molded products to the North American automotive industry. Over the last year, engineers from Trexel and ABC Group have been diligently working together on the development of MuCell blow molding. As a result of these efforts the first Mucell blow molding process was achieved with an automotive application. The

part is a reinforced Polyethylene air duct with 1.5 – 2mm wall thickness. As a result of the MuCell process the density reduction is 41% of the foamed material, resulting in a 32% net weight saving of the finished part compared to solid.

“We are very excited about the results we have achieved so far,” said Steve Braig, President and CEO of Trexel, Inc. “Commercial development of additional MuCell foamed blow molded parts including design and material optimization should result in higher than 40% weight reduction compared to the solid molded part. These results will be very attractive to OEM and Tier suppliers, and ultimately to car buyers who will enjoy improved fuel efficiency of their vehicles.”

Besides weight savings, there are several highly desirable attributes of foamed versus solid blow molded parts: the microcellular material structure improves thermal insulation and also provides for improved acoustical properties. The MuCell technology, a physical foaming process, also has several advantages over the use of chemical foaming agents: no chemical reaction at narrow processing window, no chemical additive residue in final parts, and most importantly, MuCell foamed parts can be recycled in their original polymer designation; the process does not alter the chemistry of the polymer.

**View this application sample at K 2013  
Visit Trexel (Hall 13 Stand B46)  
October 16-23 in Düsseldorf, Germany.**

#### **About Trexel, Inc.**

Trexel, Inc., headquartered in Wilmington, MA has led the development of the MuCell® Microcellular foaming technology and has pioneered many plastic processing solutions. Process deployment as well as equipment is supported by teams of highly qualified engineers through Trexel subsidiaries in North America, Europe, and Asia. For more information, please visit [www.trexel.com](http://www.trexel.com).

® MuCell is a registered trademark of Trexel, Inc

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Please see photo –(hi res file attached separately)

**Caption for Photo:** *This MuCell blow molded polyethylene air duct had a density reduction of 41% compared to solid.*

