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Delphi Specifies MuCell[®] Mass Air Flow Meter for High Volume Production

*Pixley Richards to Begin Manufacturing Mass Air Flow Meters
for 2003 Model Year Vehicles*

March 20, 2002 – Woburn, MA – Trexel, Inc. announced today that Pixley Richards (PRI) would begin high-volume production of a MuCell[®] mass air flow meter for Delphi Automotive Systems' Energy & Chassis division (Delphi). Trexel is the exclusive worldwide developer of the MuCell microcellular process technology. PRI is a leader in the manufacturing of precision plastic components.

The mass air flow meter, which will be installed in 2003 model year vehicles, is a two-component assembly consisting of an insert-molded MuCell carrier and a MuCell flow tube. The components, which will be molded with a glass fiber-reinforced, mineral-filled PBT, are mated using an all-plastic slide and latch system. Dimensional consistency is critical to its functioning properly. That makes it an ideal application for the MuCell process.

Testing has shown that numerous benefits will be realized in this application by using the MuCell injection molding process instead of conventional solid molding. These include:

- Weight savings of 10-15%.
- Reduced warpage.
- Better shot-to-shot consistency.
- Improved dimensional stability and thermal fatigue properties from -40°F to +200°F.
- Easier assembly of the flow tube and carrier.
- Reduced machine size due to a lower clamp tonnage requirement.
- Elimination of modifications typically required to profile the tool for proper dimensions.
- Dramatically lower cavity pressures, which prevent distortion of the insert-molded carrier.

Lee J. Hyde, Trexel Business Director, states, "Today an investment in MuCell technology routinely yields a payback of 6-18 months, an ROI of 300-400%, and a net part savings of 10-25%. Through hardware improvements and advances such as the Series II Trexel® SCF System, the up-front investment has been reduced, and the financial justification for using the technology has been made even stronger."

David Bernstein, President and CEO of Trexel, states, "Having Delphi Automotive Systems' Energy & Chassis specify the MuCell air flow meter for high-volume production demonstrates the inroads MuCell has made in the automotive marketplace and the level of acceptance the process has achieved throughout the manufacturing sector."

James Katterman, Delphi Project Engineer, explains that electronic fuel injection systems accomplish precise fuel control by determining the amount of air entering the engine, then making certain that the injectors deliver the correct amount of fuel to maintain the proper air/fuel ratio. "The laws of physics don't inherently link air flow to fuel delivery like in a carburetor, so the rate at which air is being used must be accurately determined

to allow proper scheduling of fuel into the engine. One of the major techniques that have evolved for this is a mass airflow sensor, or air meter. Delphi has specified the MuCell process for this device."

Richard LaViolette, Director of Sales & Marketing at PRI, notes that his company has made a long-term commitment to the MuCell process as a means to provide quality improvements, product performance enhancements, and cost savings.

About Trexel

Trexel is the exclusive developer of the MuCell microcellular process technology and has an extensive portfolio of patents in the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Asia. Trexel's primary business is licensing the MuCell technology to injection molders, extruders, and blow molders. It also provides world-class engineering support, training and other services to licensees, and supports them with equipment and components integral to the MuCell process. In support of these activities, Trexel operates a plastics development laboratory in its Woburn, MA facility. Other MuCell laboratories are located in throughout the U.S., Europe, and Asia.

About the MuCell Technology

The MuCell process is suitable for a wide range of injection molded, extruded, and blow molded products as it allows licensees to reduce product costs while enhancing design and processing. MuCell parts, which have a solid-like appearance, contain less material than parts produced through less-current methods, yet maintain most of their former properties. The process also can eliminate stress, warpage, and sink marks, and greatly improve productivity. These benefits allow designers to specify lightweight, polymer-saving foam materials for products in which conventionally foamed materials would be unacceptable.

About Pixley Richards:

From its founding in 1965, PRI has become a leader in the manufacturing of precision plastic components. As suppliers to prominent OEM manufacturers, PRI has maintained

a solid reputation for the highest standards of quality excellence. PRI has long been recognized for bringing unique solutions to the most demanding applications in custom injection molding and component manufacturing. The wealth of experience PRI has gained has given it the ability to handle virtually any engineering resin, even in the most complex geometric shapes and configurations.

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