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Trexel Prevails in European Patent Appeal

Appeal Board Reverses Original Ruling Revoking Trexel's Microcellular Molded Article Patent

Woburn, MA, U.S.A. – March 14, 2007-- Trexel, the developer of the MuCell® microcellular injection molding technology, has successfully appealed the decision of April 1, 2005, revoking European Patent No. 0 952 908 (the Microcellular Molded Article Patent) at a hearing before the Appeal Board at the European Patent Office which took place on March 7, 2007. The implication of the Appeal Board's ruling is far-reaching in that the patent claims will cover all types of microcellular molded articles irrespective of the process, or type of blowing agent (physical or chemical) used to form the article.

Levi Kishbaugh, Trexel Vice President of Engineering, noted, "Trexel already has well-established patents that are unopposed in Europe and elsewhere that cover the MuCell Molding Process and MuCell Molding Systems. This recent decision clarifies that Trexel also has patent coverage in Europe over microcellular molded articles produced by processes that claim to be different than the MuCell Process."

The decision by the Appeal Board follows another recent decision (November 10, 2006) in favor of Trexel by the Opposition Division of the European Patent Office which acknowledged the validity of one of Trexel's MuCell Molding System Patents (European Patent No. 1 165 301). The claims cover Trexel's existing and, in all likelihood, future MuCell Molding System designs. The decision has not been appealed. Related patents have also been issued in the US, Canada and Taiwan, and related applications are pending elsewhere in the world.

According to Kishbaugh, "The two recent decisions are further confirmation of Trexel's ability to provide strong IP protection to the users of its MuCell Systems and to their end use customers."

The claims considered on appeal were directed to molded microcellular articles having a thickness of less than 0.125 inches (3.175 mm) and a flow length-to-article thickness ratio of at least 75:1. In Trexel's view, the claims cover nearly all microcellular products currently in production and >98% of all future targets for microcellular production. Trexel also has similar patent protection covering microcellular molded articles in patents that have issued in the US, Canada, Taiwan, and Australia, and other applications that are pending elsewhere globally.

Trexel acknowledged that the opposition process in connection with the European Molded Microcellular Article patent now moves to a next stage in front of the European Opposition Division to assess whether the claims meet the "inventive step" standard which was not at issue before the Appeal Board. Trexel expressed confidence that it would prevail at this stage as well. The time period for ultimate resolution in connection with the European Molded Microcellular Article patent is likely to be greater than 3 years, during which time the patent remains in full force.

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 including injection molding and extrusion equipment.

About the MuCell Molding Technology

The MuCell Microcellular Foam injection molding technology is a complete process and equipment technology that enables extremely high quality and reduced production costs. The MuCell Technology is targeted at precision and engineered injection molded plastic components. The MuCell Process enables the otherwise unattainable production of stress free parts that maintain strict dimensional stability. MuCell provides the ability to mold with lower tonnage on smaller machines while offering substantial operating savings by reducing cycle times and parts weights.

There are hundreds of MuCell injection molded parts in commercial production today around the world and approximately 300 machines in operation. Examples of MuCell products include

electrical components, electronics connectors, internal business equipment and printer components, 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, Singapore, Australia and Korea.