



Robert Eller Associates LLC
CONSULTANTS TO THE PLASTICS AND RUBBER INDUSTRIES

NEW FRONTIERS FOR PLASTICS IN AUTOMOTIVE INTERIORS

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PRESENTED AT:

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USA

OUTLINE



- *“Innovate or die”– Peter Drucker*
- *“Innovation is the difference between the same perspective and an entirely new one...Invesco*

- Interiors supply chain implications
- Innovation targets
- Paths to innovation
- Enablers/driving forces for interiors innovation
- Foams
- Acoustics
- Seating
- Soft touch
- Body/glazing seals
- Unique new materials
- Fiber reinforced plastics
- Luxury effect examples

THE INTERIOR PLASTICS SUPPLY CHAIN AND ITS INFLUENCES



Government standards

Emissions

CAFE standards

Safety



MATERIALS → COMPOUNDING → FABRICATION → COMPONENT ASSEMBLY → VEH. ASSEMBLY

↑
COATINGS

↑
FASTENING
METHODS

↑
FASTENING
METHODS



The usual drivers:

Cost/performance

Esthetics, haptic

Quality/performance tier

Environmental concerns

Ergonomics

VOC



OEM req'ts:

Platform compatibility

Branding/image

DNA statement

Globalization

Specs, warranty concerns



Changing fleet composition:

SUVs, PUTs, compacts, etc.

SOURCE: ROBERT ELLER ASSOCIATES LLC, 2015

AUTO INTERIORS SUPPLY CHAIN IS CONSOLIDATING

INTERIOR TIER 1	2014 INTERIOR REVENUES, \$Bn	ACQUIROR	NOTE/STATUS AS OF 041615
Magna	3.0(a)	Grupo Antolin	- Pending agreement to sell \$2.4BN out of estimated \$3.0 BN interiors business. - Excludes seating
JCI Interiors	3.5	Yanfeng Auto	- Completed (5/14) via non-cash transaction - Excludes seating
Visteon Interiors	1.0	Cerberus Capital	- Completed → Reydel(Cerberus) - Visteon sold 50% share in seating JV to partner Yanfeng Visteon Automotive Trim Systems in 2013
Faurecia	5.0	None yet	PSA owns 57% of Faurecia

Note:

- Emerge from overcapacity/low profitability
- Increased purchase and pricing power

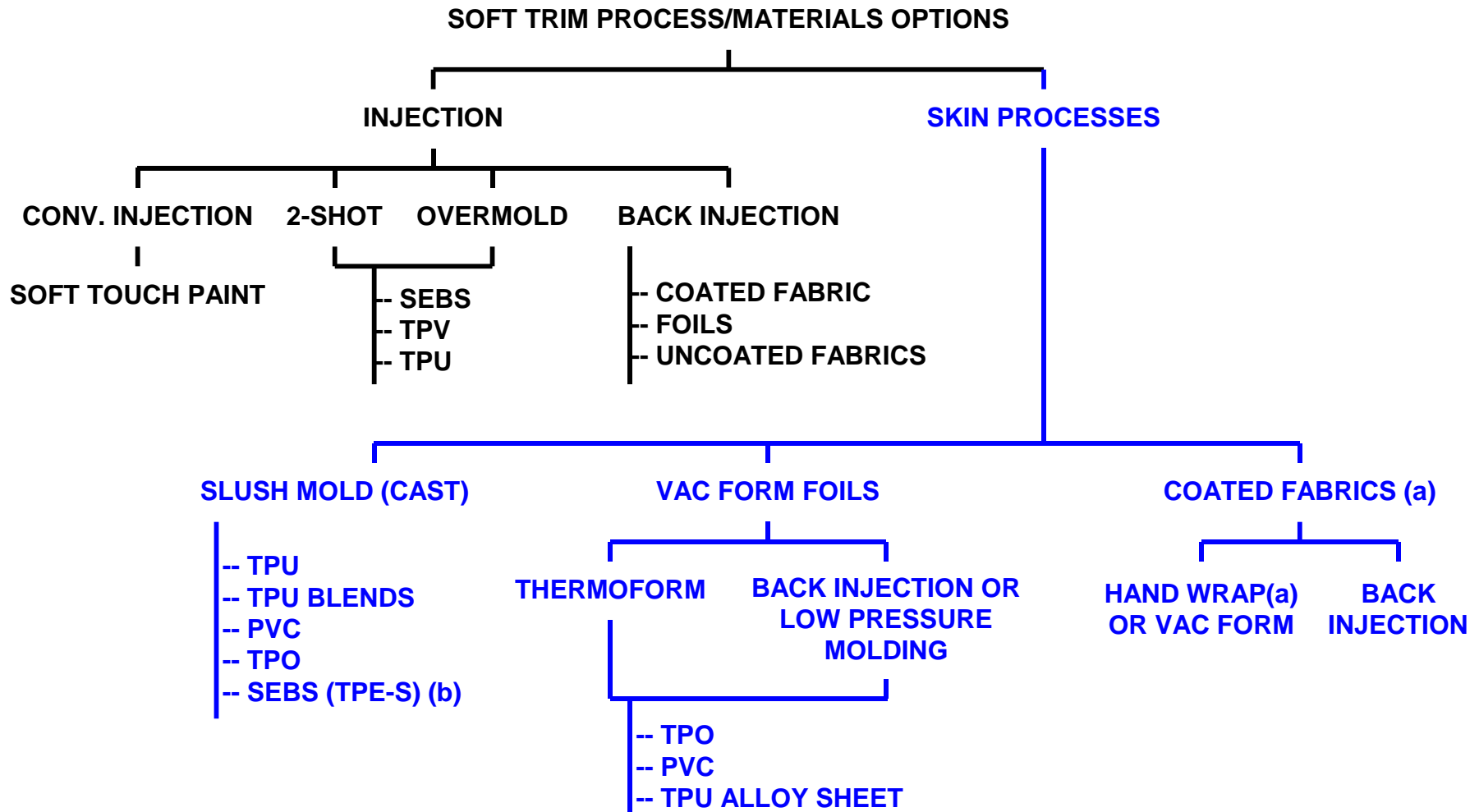
SOURCE: ROBERT ELLER ASSOCIATES LLC, 2015

FRONTIERS FOR INTERIORS INNOVATION



TARGET	COMPONENT	PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	NOTE/CANDIDATES
Seating	PU foam	Bio-components in foam chemistry	Started
	Frame	- Thinner seat cross-section - Long glass/carbon fiber reinforced ETPs.	Heavy weight ←Target
PP comp'ds	Panels/ IP substrate	- Thinner, low gloss, + grain - Increased structural, bio	Improved: fillers, flow
-IP - Door trim - Console	Skins	Competition: - Slush (PVC, TPU), - TPO sheet- o-TPV (recently) - Single/2 shot injection	- Process cost reduction - Avoid “cheap plastics” look - Soft touch
Acoustics	Floor, door, firewall, headliner	- Get decibel level down without weight gain - Reduce BSR - Recent major target	- Foam, fiber, heavy layer combinations - PE/rigid constructions
Ductwork	- Headliner, IP	Reduce: BSR, weight	Polyolefin foams

SOFT TRIM: TARGET FOR INTERIORS INNOVATION



NOTE: (a) Polyurethane dispersion (PUD) coated fabrics gaining share
 (b) Recently introduced

SOURCE: ROBERT ELLER ASSOCIATES LLC, 2015



Pearlescent film

Application: 2015 Nissan Murano

Note: Pearlescent films are used in labels, decorative ribbon

Photo source: Wards Automotive

SOME PATHS TO INTERIOR PLASTICS INNOVATION



- **Extension of materials properties + efficient fabrication technology:**
 - Improved rheology o-TPVs + single shot injection
- **Extension/combination of capabilities:**
 - Borealis' 20% long glass fiber grades utilizing integral foaming
 - Combining vibration damping TPEs with rigid plastic substrate → reduced BSR
- **Eliminating limitations:**
 - Reformulating slush PVC to eliminate fragmentation during airbag deployment
 - Colored long glass reinforced composites
- **Finding new paths:** Multiple sustainable, green solutions
- **Substitutions that solve problems: (Weight save, BSR)**
 - Substituting polyolefin foam for rigid ducting

EXAMPLE ENABLERS/DRIVERS FOR AUTO INTERIOR PLASTICS INNOVATION



ENABLERS

- **Catalyst innovations**
 - Metallocene EPDM
 - POEs
- **Compounding:** Broadening the performance envelope
- **Plastic process technology improvement examples**
 - Foaming improvements
 - Co-processing (co-blow, co-extrusion, co-injection)
- **3-D printing:** Speeding prototype production and evaluation

DRIVERS

- **Drive for “green” solutions:** Driving bio-plastics and natural fiber substitution
- **MPG regulations:** Driving metal substitution, weight reduction

EXAMPLE DRIVING FORCES IN AUTOMOTIVE → INNOVATIONS

- **Increased joining via bonding** → adhesives growth and functionalization of polyolefins
- **Improving acoustics** (acoustic barriers, seals for wind noise, buzz/squeak/rattle)
- **EMF shielding** via conductive fillers, back injection, films
- **Weight save via:**
 - thinwalling
 - metal substitution
 - lighter weight plastics
 - glass substitution (e.g. with polycarbonate)
 - filler substitution (e.g. with natural fibers or lighter fillers)
- **Improved esthetics** (eliminate “cheap plastics look”)

TWO EXAMPLES OF PLASTICS PROCESSING INNOVATIONS



- **DYNAMIC VULCANIZATION**
- **FOAMING**
- **Both have had staying power:**
 - **Technology platforms for product and process development**
 - **Broad application range**
 - **Continuing evolution of applications**
 - **Basis for evolution of process variations**

DYNAMIC VULCANIZATION



- **Crosslinking elastomer “islands” in a plastic resin “sea” or matrix during extrusion**
- **Fundamental breakthrough was crosslinking of fine dispersion during extrusion**
- **Example of innovation driven by intensive investment and creative marketing to “shape” new markets**
- **The basis for:**
 - **olefinic TPVs (o-TPVs e.g. Santoprene from ExxonMobil) based on EPDM in PP**
 - **other island/sea, elastomer/plastic compositions**
- **Broad range of interiors applications:**
 - **skins, seals, hoses, body/glazing seals), boots/bellows**

SOURCE: ROBERT ELLER ASSOCIATES LLC, 2015



- **LGF PP:**
 - reaching material property limits
 - innovation now design dependent
- **Interior targets: door hardware modules, IP substrates, seat frames**
- **Growth of LGF - polyamides**
- **Flow enhancers → improved surface finish (Velocity® high flow grades from Plasticomp)**
- **Induction heating: (e.g. from RocTool) → improved surface finish**
- **Entry of long carbon fiber (LCF): performance and weight save advantage over LGF**
- **LGF/LCF hybrids: performance/cost stepping-stone**

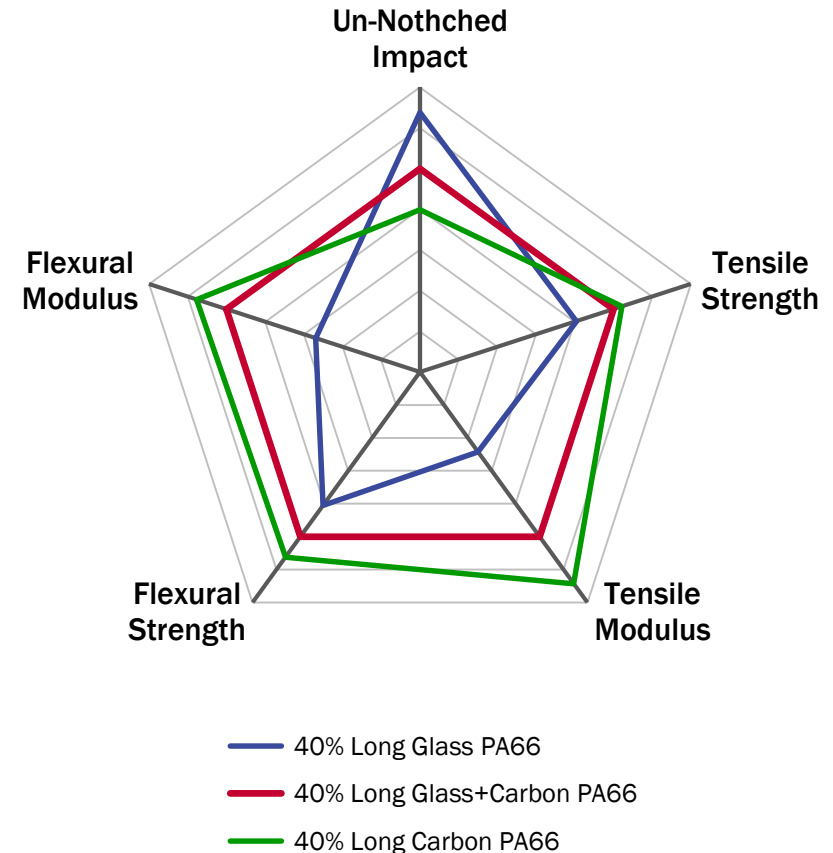


- **BALANCED PERFORMANCE**

- Glass fiber toughness
- Carbon fiber strength

- **PA66 20%GF 20%CF**

- Impact
 - 78% of glass fiber
 - 125% of carbon fiber
- Strength
 - 124% of glass fiber
 - 96% of carbon fiber
- Stiffness
 - 186% of glass fiber
 - 87% of carbon fiber



TECH. PLATFORM: PP/FIBER REINFORCED DOOR HARDWARE MODULE



CANDIDATE MATERIALS: PP REINFORCED WITH LONG GLASS FIBERS OR 40% CELLULOSE FIBERS

SOURCE: BROSE

CURRENT/POTENTIAL POLYOLEFIN FOAMS INTERIOR APPLICATIONS

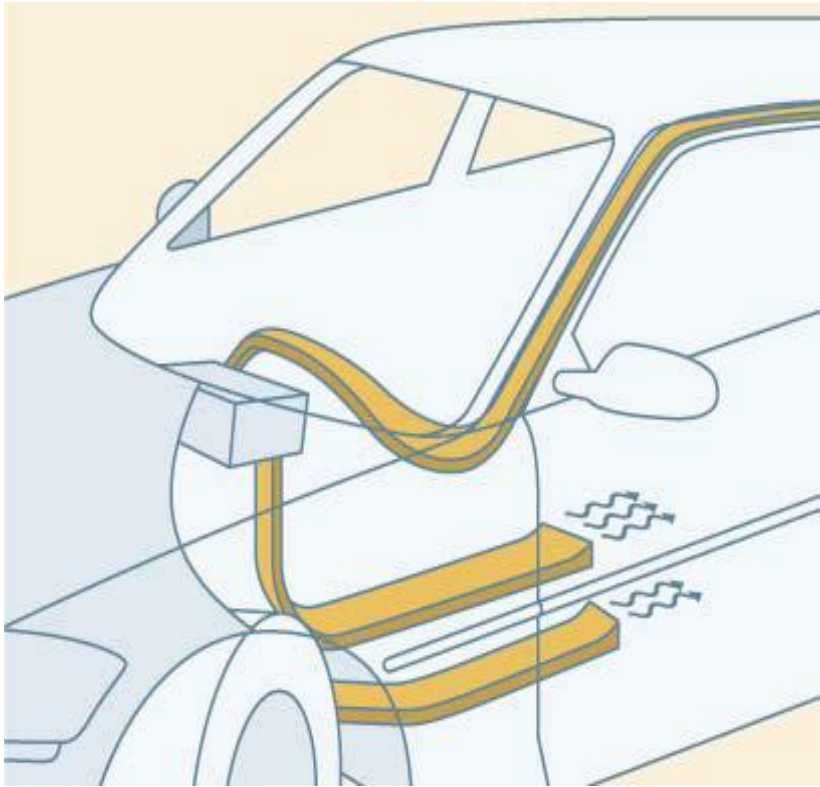


Note:

(a) EPP bead foams

SOURCE: ROBERT ELLER ASSOCIATES LLC, 2015

AIR DUCTS: TARGET FOR POLYOLEFIN FOAMS



OVER 10 AIR DUCTS PER CAR



EXAMPLE AIR DUCT

MATERIAL: PP FOAM

PROCESS: TWIN SHEET FORMING

SUPPLIER: SEKISUI ALVEO

SOURCE: ROBERT ELLER ASSOCIATES LLC, 2015

INTERIOR TARGETS AND COMPETITORS

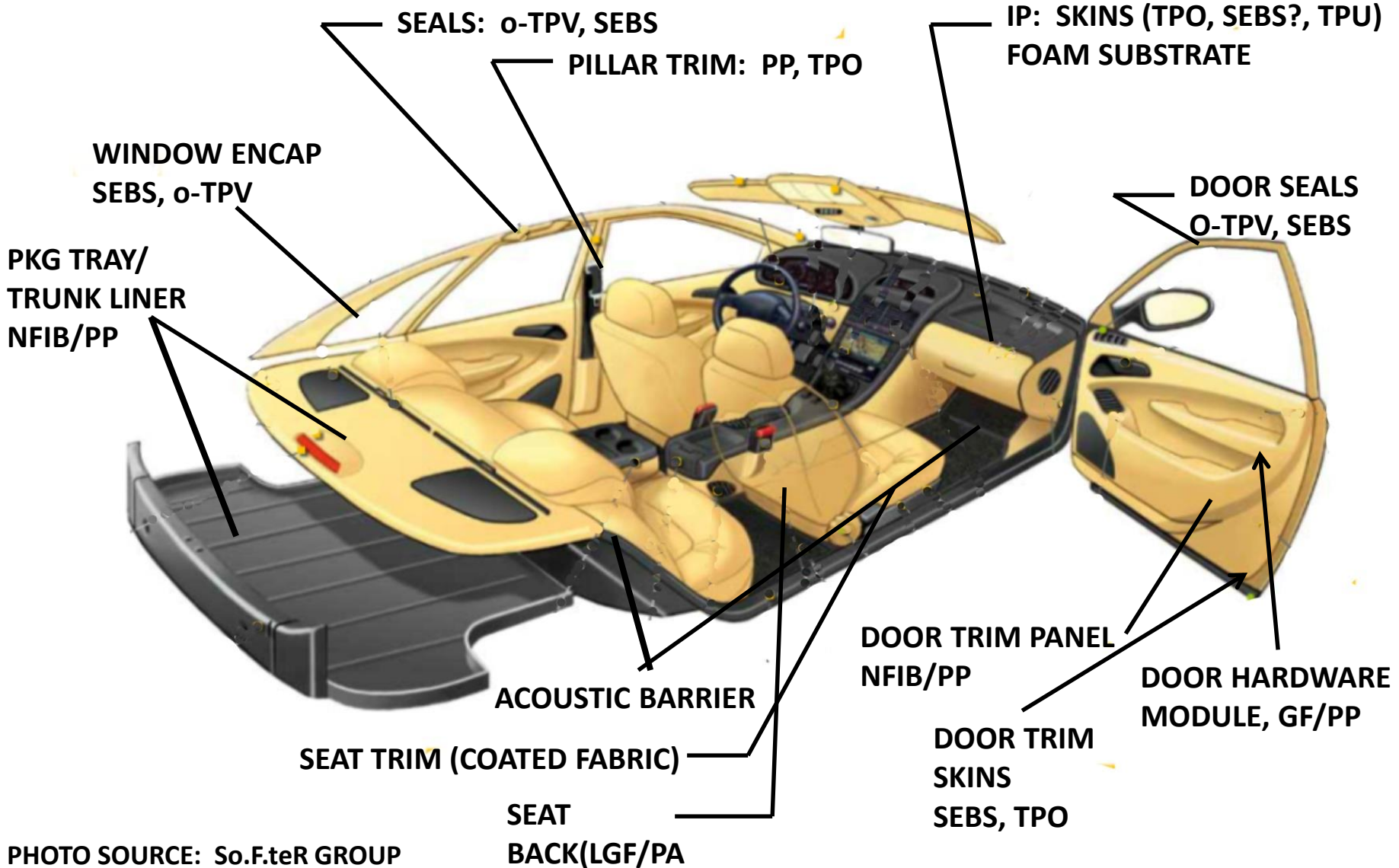
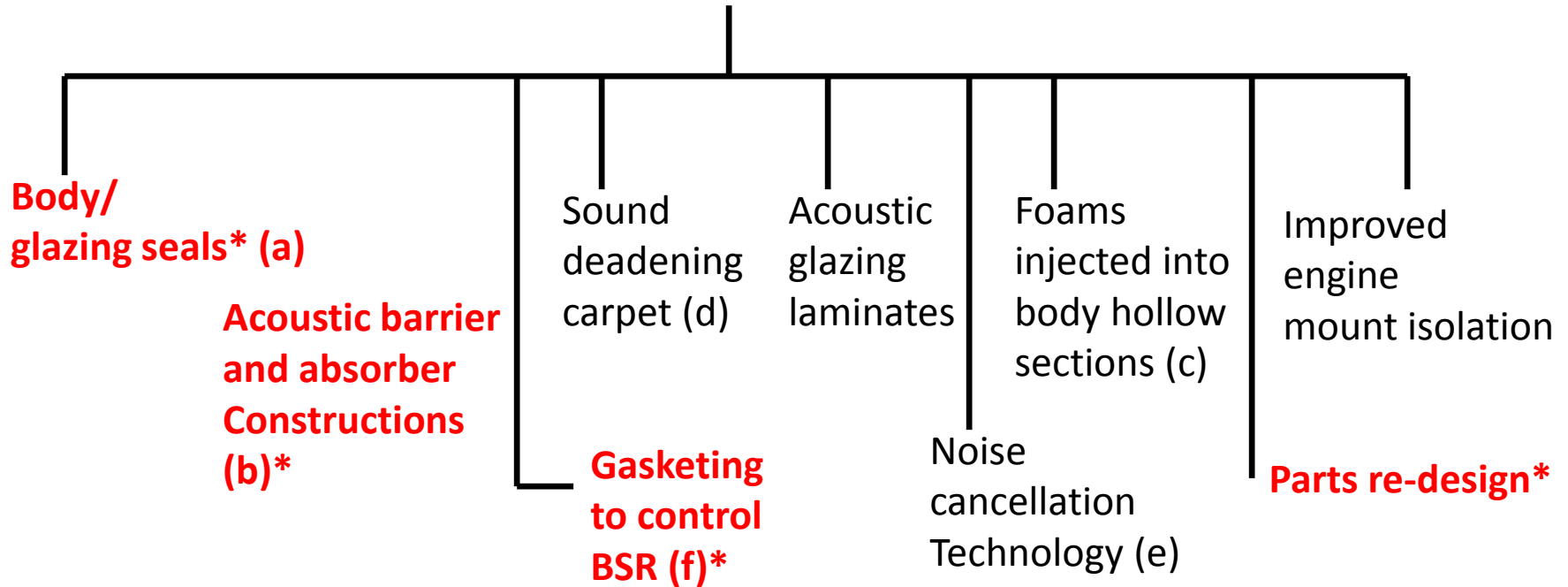


PHOTO SOURCE: So.F.teR GROUP

TARGETS: ROBERT ELLER ASSOCIATES LLC., 2015

AUTOMOTIVE ACOUSTICS SOLUTIONS



Note: *= current or potential TPE opportunities

(a) High growth application for SBC and o-TPVs

(b) Lightweight dash mats and heavy duty barriers (e.g. from Cascade Engineering).
includes polyolefin foams

(c) For example Betafoam™ from Dow based on PU foams

(d) For example from IAC/Stankiewicz

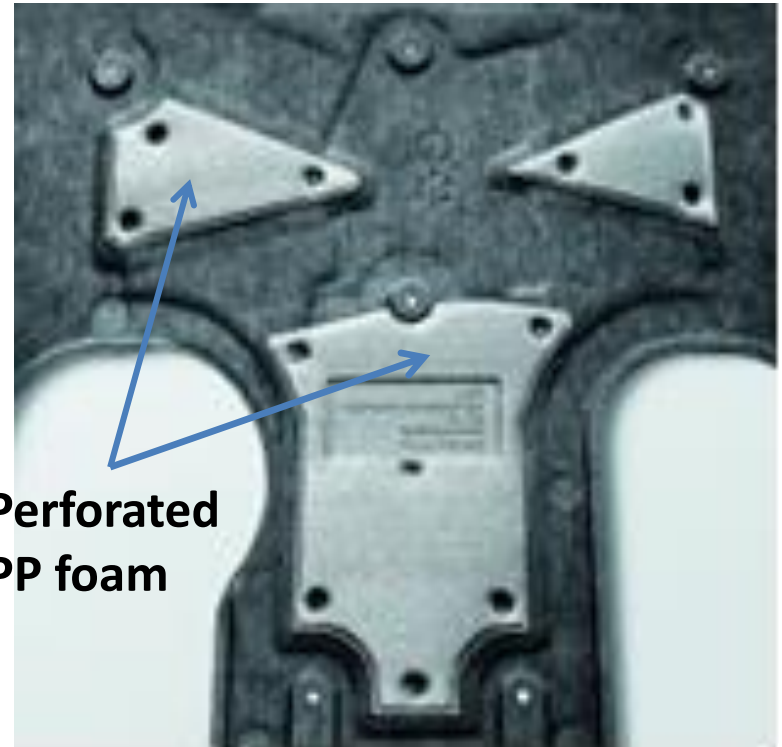
(e) Becoming common via feedback microphones (e.g. Honda Accord and Chevrolet Impala)

(f) BSR= Buzz, squeak, rattle: opens opportunity for vibration damping TPE layer on plastic substrates

ACOUSTIC TARGETS FOR POLYOLEFINS/TPEs/FOAMS



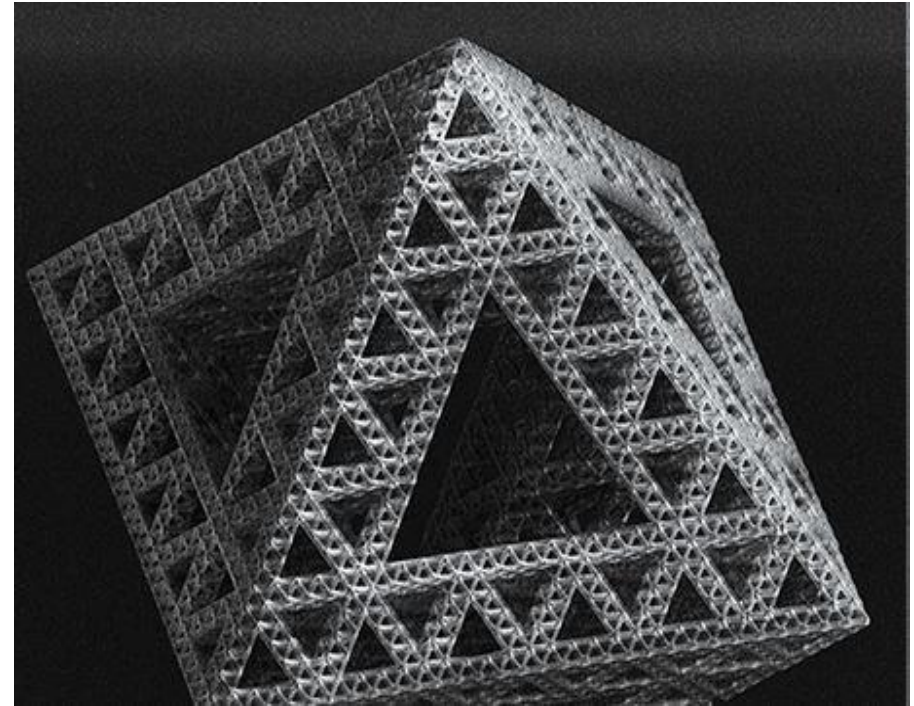
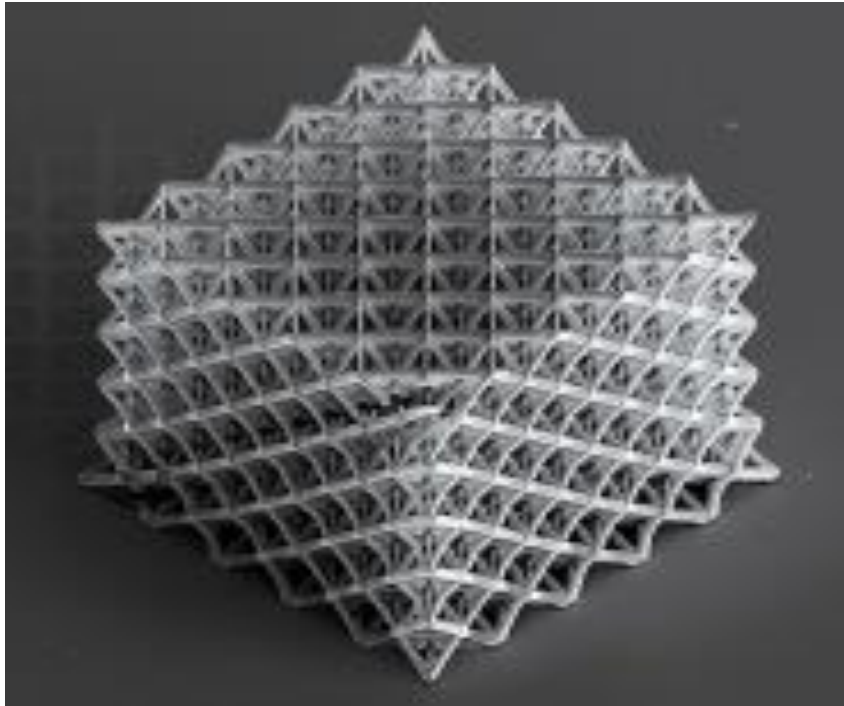
DASH MAT
SUPPLIER: CASCADE ENGINEERING



**Perforated
PP foam**

FLAT ABSORBER FOR GEAR DRIVE
**NOTE: WHITE AREAS ARE MICRO-
PERFORATED POLYOLEFIN FOAMS**

FOAM SUPPLIER: SEKISUI ALVEO



Ceramic cube:

50 micrometers per side, ultralight - mostly air

Strong, not brittle

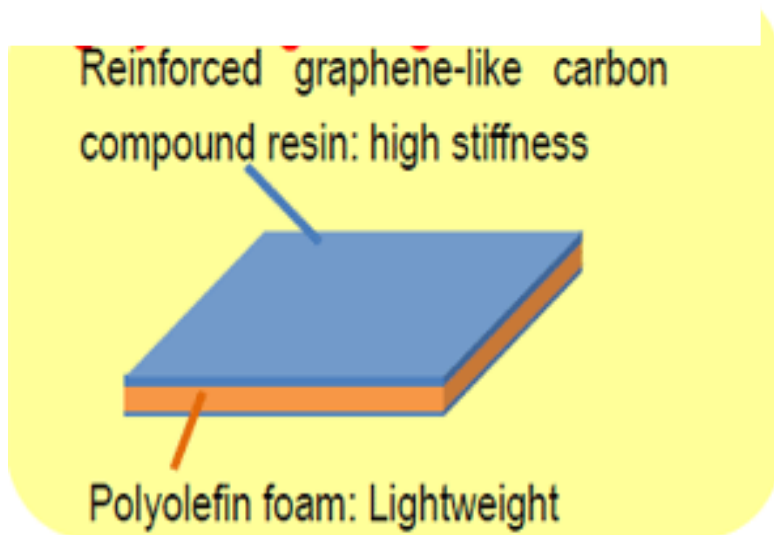
Precise control of structure at nanoscale

- increased energy density of batteries with weight save
- space at nanoscale to precisely control flow of heat and light
- others?

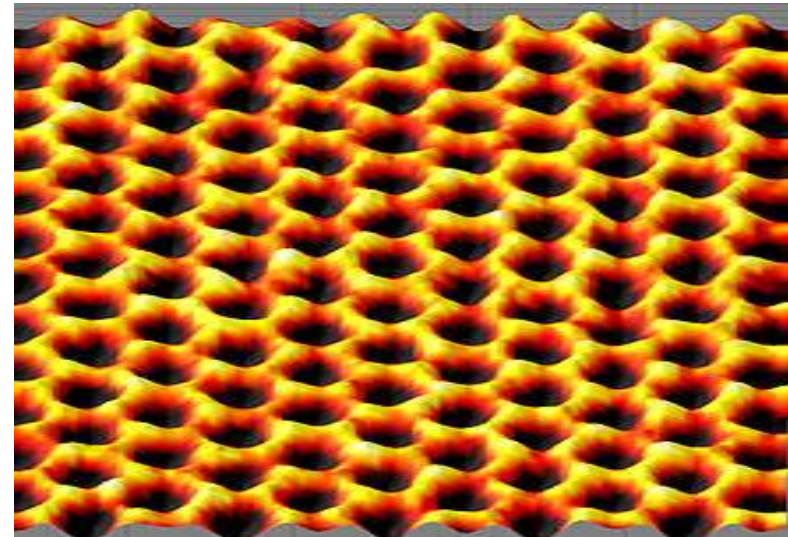
SOURCE: MIT Technology Review , vol. 118 no. 2, Caltech



HIGH STIFFNESS/LIGHTWEIGHT SHEET



GRAPHENE



Combination yields:

- high stiffness from graphene-like layers
- lightweight /thickness effect of PO foam
- easily molded

Target auto applications:

- sandwich structures
- battery
- electronics
- composites

Scanning probe microscopic image of graphene, an allotropic form of carbon in a 2 dimensional, atomic scale hexagonal lattice.

- One atom at each vertex → C-C bonding
- 100x stronger than steel
 - efficient heat, electrical conductor
 - nearly transparent



- **Globalized interiors supply chain is consolidating**
- **Interiors is a major innovation zone with many intermaterials/interprocess challengers to incumbents**
- **The major drivers/opportunity frontiers are:**
 - **acoustic improvement**
 - **weight save**
 - **luxury look and feel (haptics)**
 - **process improvement to replace outdated fabrication technology**
 - **active safety**
 - **electrical/electronic architecture**
- **The major challengers are**
 - **foams (several types)**
 - **fiber reinforced composites**
 - **thermoplastic elastomers(TPEs)**
 - **new generation fillers/reinforcements**
 - **improved conductive materials**