Kraton Polymers, in response to the demands of the automotive industry for a higher-performance and more environmentally sustainable solution, has developed a new SBC-based alternative for slush molded interior soft skins.

**Kraton’s SBC-based Slush Molding Alternative Benefits:**
- Better Aging Properties
- Enhanced Aesthetics
- Reduced Fogging
- Improved Low Temperature Performance
- Lower system costs
- Lower specific gravity resulting in a 30-40% reduction in component weight
- Recyclability
- Improved Soft Touch

These benefits can be achieved using existing slush molding equipment and standard processing conditions.

The three leading processes used to make interior soft skins are:
- **Slush Molding**
- **Positive and Negative Thermomolding**
- **Sprayed Polyurethane (PU)**

Slush molding is the preferred process. It gives manufacturers greater freedom in component design and is used to produce a variety of automotive interior components such as:
- Instrument Panels
- Door Trim
- Consoles
- Airbag Covers
- Knee Protectors

PVC has been the predominant material for interior soft skins using slush molding, but it has many limitations - including brittleness and loss of functionality due to the tendency of the plasticizer to migrate over time.
Comparison of Slush Moldable Materials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Slush PVC</th>
<th>Slush TPU</th>
<th>Slush TPO</th>
<th>Kraton TPE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Specific Gravity</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low T°C Ductility</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Term Dimensional Stability</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recyclability</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low T, High T°C Performance</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light Stability</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost ($/Mass)</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scratch Resistance</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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