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Advanced Textiles

EXPO

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Challenges of Smart Surfaces in Automotive Trim

Jeremy Husic | Staff Engineer, Advanced Development Group

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Inteva at a Glance

100+ Customers

Inteva has a true global presence and reach, with engineering and production capabilities across the Americas, Asia and Europe.

30 Global Sites

From our headquarters in Troy - Michigan, we operate 30 global facilities.

9000+ Employees

Our global team shares one common vision: ensuring that customers and partners recognize Inteva as a global leading company in innovation, sustainability, and products that enhance the consumer experience.

3 Areas of Excellence

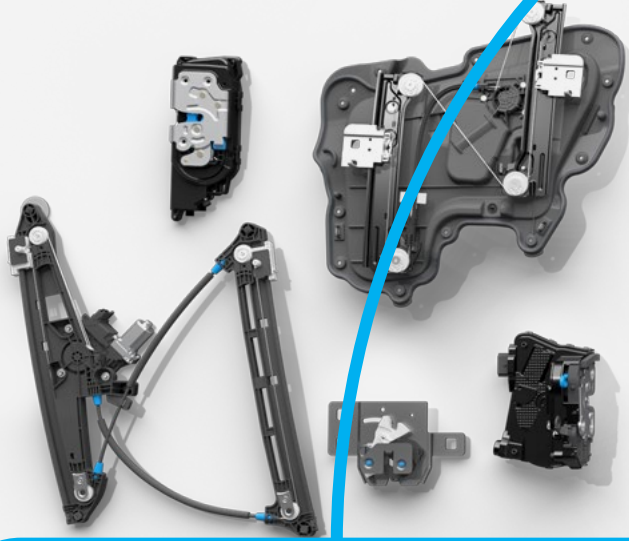
Inteva combines a culture of continuous improvement with our advanced expertise in Interior Systems, Closure Systems, and Motors & Electronics to provide world-class solutions to customer needs.



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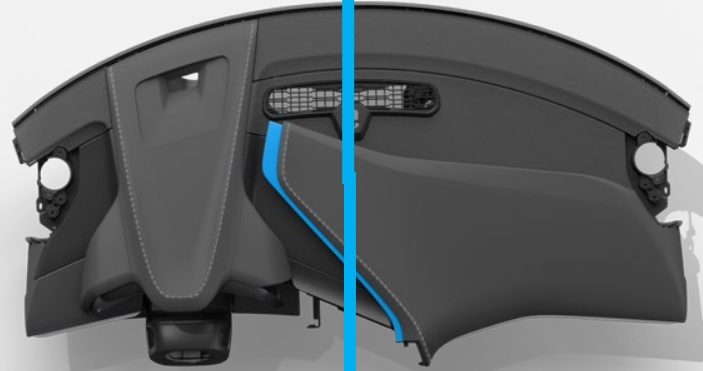
Products

Smart Surfaces



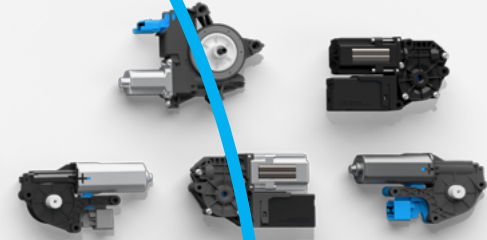
Closure Systems

- Latching Systems
- Window Regulators
- Door Modules
- Smart Actuators
- Smooth Motion Systems
- Actuators and Strikers (KDS JV)



Interior Systems

- Instrument Panels, Door Trim, Floor Consoles
- Cockpit Assembly
- Inteather™ Materials
- InStitch™ Technology
- Smart Soft Surfaces
- Electronics for Touch Sensing and Lighting



Motors & Electronics

- Window Motors
- Sunroof Motors
- Electronics

Challenges of Smart Surfaces in Automotive Trim

Abstract

Smart surface technology enables functional features in areas that were once just decorative automotive trim. Portions of the lighting and electronics are embedded into the trim layers, while others are packaged behind the substrate. Allocating the electronics in this new space has created a need for new business relationships. Technical challenges include material compatibility for bonding methods, appearance, softness, distinction of image, touch sensitivity, hidden front functionality, packaging space, connection and others.

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Topics



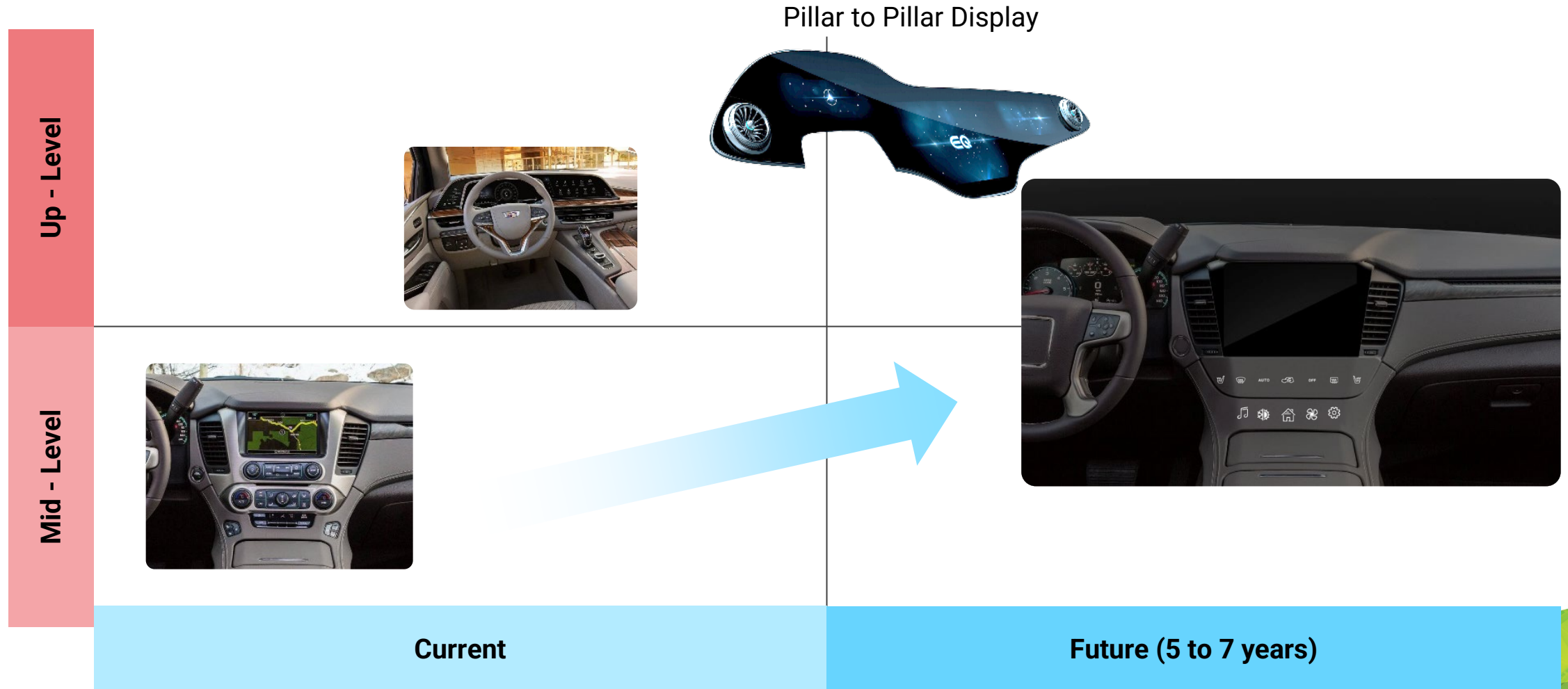
- Why soft smart surfaces?
- Smart surface opportunities
 - Market considerations
 - New locations with the potential for improved ergonomics
 - HMI functionality that maintains soft feel
 - New constructions
- Development and approach to smart surface applications
- Challenges
- Examples
- Summary

Why Soft Smart Surfaces?

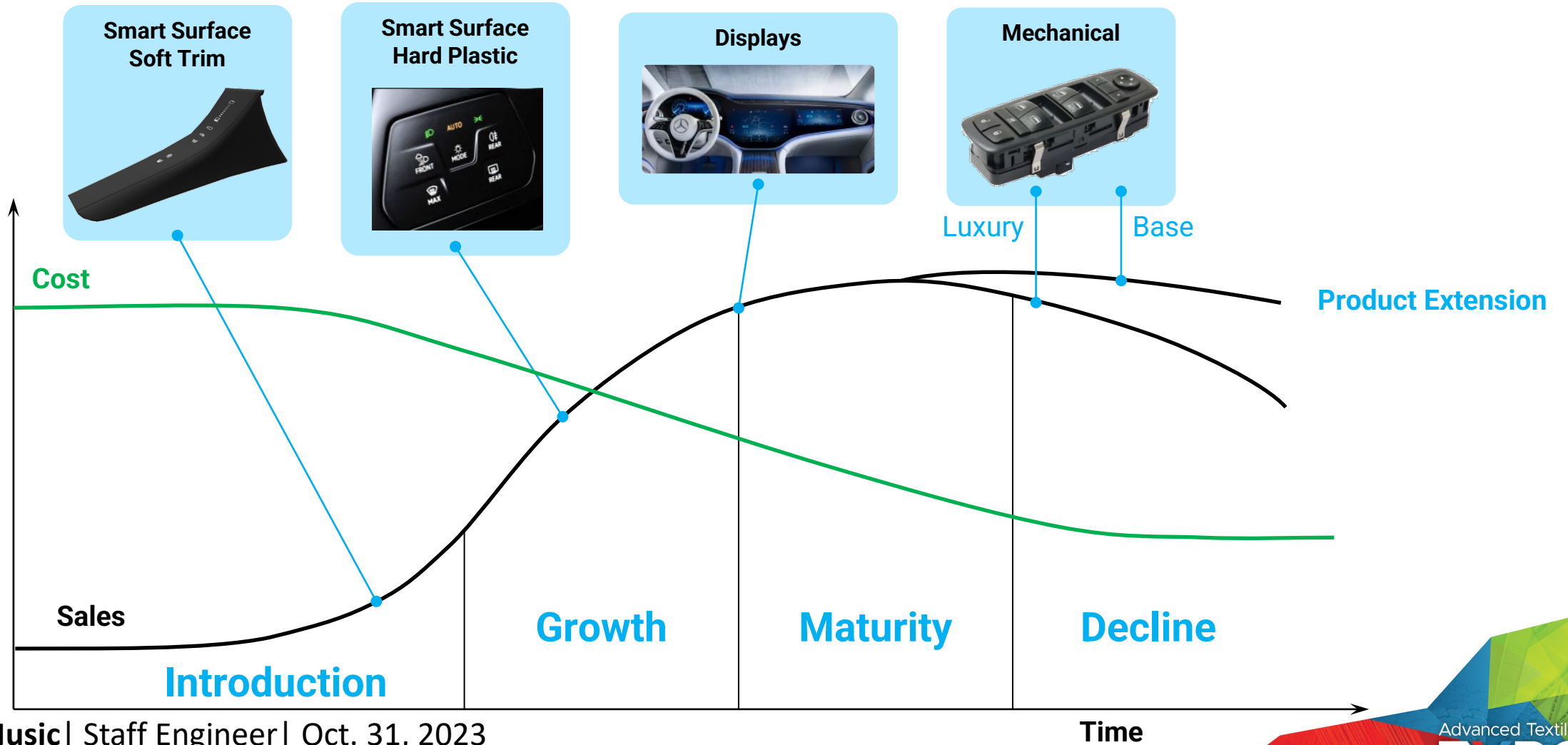
- Through multiple avenues there is growing possibilities for smart automotive surfaces overall
- A focus has been in the soft smart surface area for several reasons
 - Interior systems integrators already have expertise in soft trim
 - Some integrators have capabilities in electronics
 - Inteva provides roll good products through our Inteather™ line of TPO products
 - Inteva's capabilities make moving toward soft smart surfaces to be a natural progression



Market Segmentation vs. Time



Interior Switch Product Cycle



Display vs. Soft Smart Surfaces

Displays

Pros

- Re-programmable
- Haptics
- Streaming Content (Fee Based)
- High Switch Density
- Customizable
- Wide Range of Gestures
- Highly Visual Feedback

Cons

- Hard Surface
- Mainly Flat or little Contour
- Multi-layered Menus
- Flat Look Not Matching Trim
- Glare/Reflections
- Hard Surface in Crash
- More Distractions



Smart Surfaces

Pros

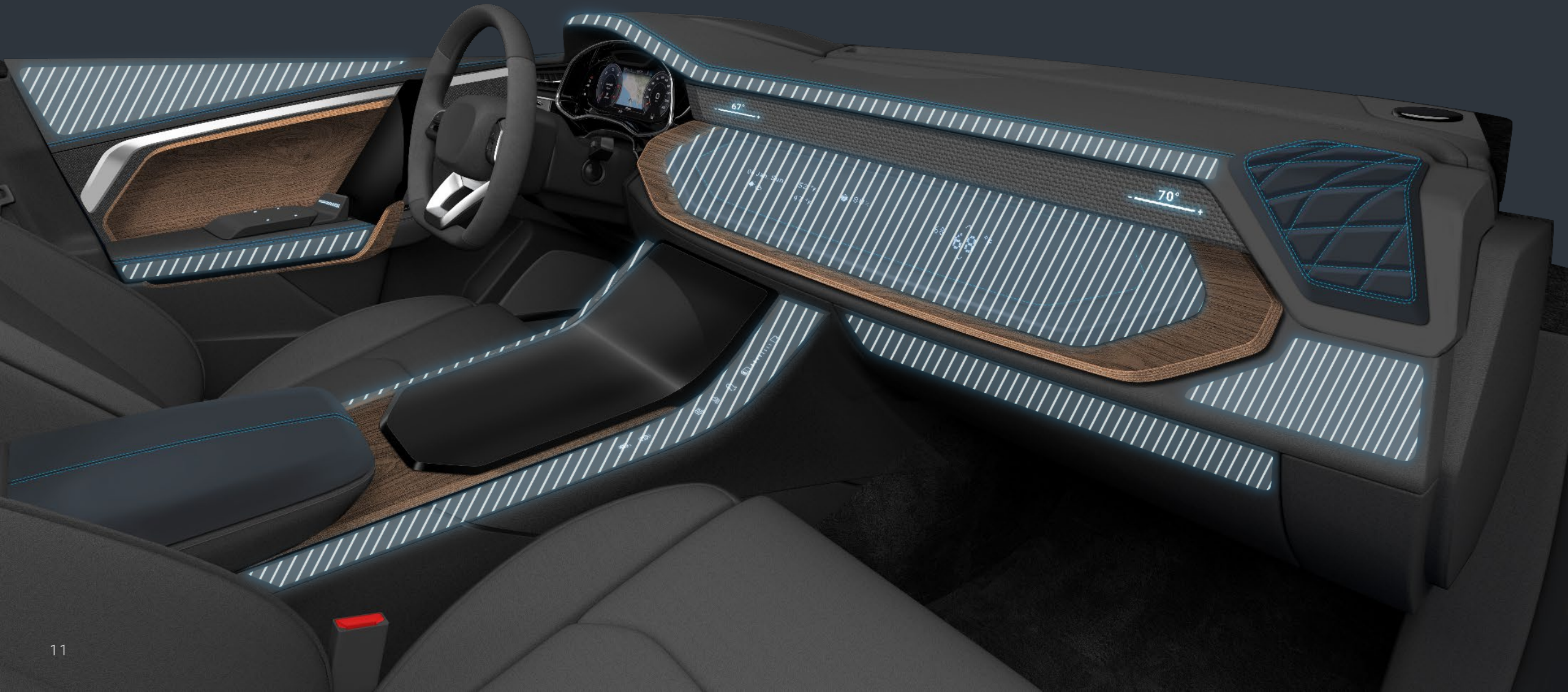
- Match Interior Harmony
- Soft is Possible
- Ergonomics
- Fixed Locations
- Hidden Switches
- 3D Contour
- Reduced Distractions
- Improved Packaging
- Anywhere in Vehicle (low Z depth)
- Bridges Gap from Traditional to Displays

Cons

- Lower Switch Density
- Constrained to Available Area
- Each Design Unique
- Technology Needs Development
- No Interactive Content

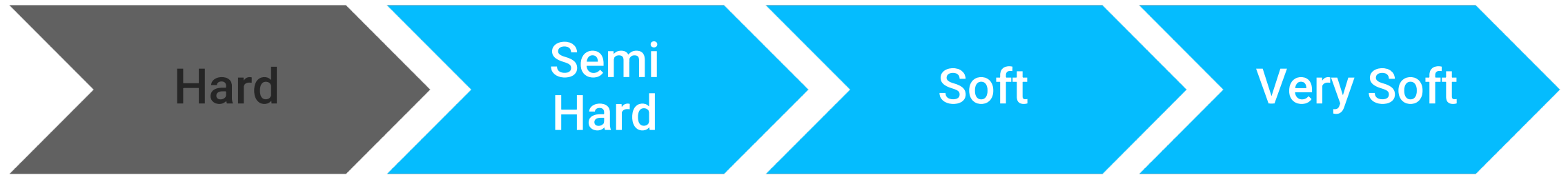


Potential Locations



General Customer Requirements

Product Feel



Skin Materials



● *Area of Focus*

Smart Soft Surface Constructions

Wrap Over Hard



Integration

Switches
Hard Printed
Circuit Board

Icons
Perforations

Cut-Sew-Wrap



Integration

Switches
Stretchable

Icons
Embossed

Applied Skin



Integration

Switches
Hard Printed
Circuit Board

Icons
Translucent
TPO



Integration

Switches
B-Side Film

Icons
Perforations



Integration

Switches
Stretchable

Icons
Translucent
TPO



Integration

Switches
Hard Printed
Circuit Board

Icons
Translucent
Polyurethane

Specialty Materials and Processes

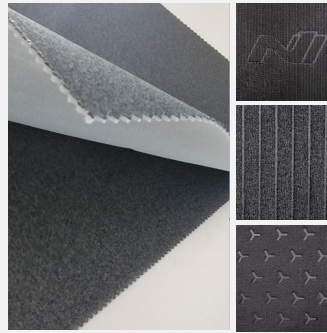
Perforation & Stitching



Integration

- Illumination Through Perforations
- Illuminated Stitch

Specialty Fabric Applications



Integration

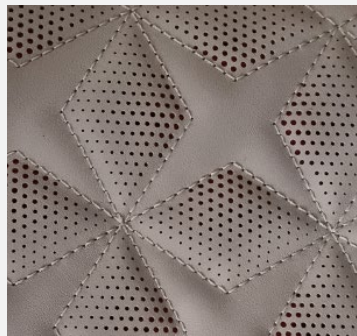
- Embossed / Debossed Fabric for Back Lighting Applications

Hidden Front TPOs



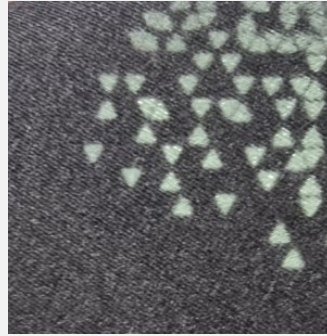
Integration

- First Surface Printed Icons with Hidden Front



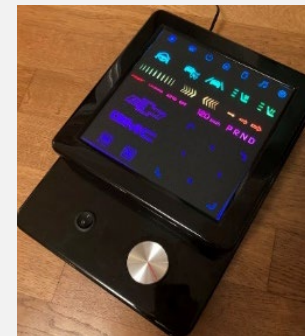
Integration

- Geometric Patterned Perforations



Integration

- Back Printed Fabric for Lighting and HMI



Integration

- Second Surface Printed Icons with Hidden Front

Full Concept Properties

Multiple Function Demonstrators



Features

- Wall UI
- Integrated Track Pad
- Force Sensing Window Control
- Illuminated Stitch With Touch Slider



Features

- Illuminated Stitching with Back Lighting
- Welcome Mode
- Safety Alerts
- Convenience Alerts
- Animated Lighting



Features

- Touch Screen
- Express Anywhere
- Rearview Camera
- Touch Open Switch
- Illuminated Welting



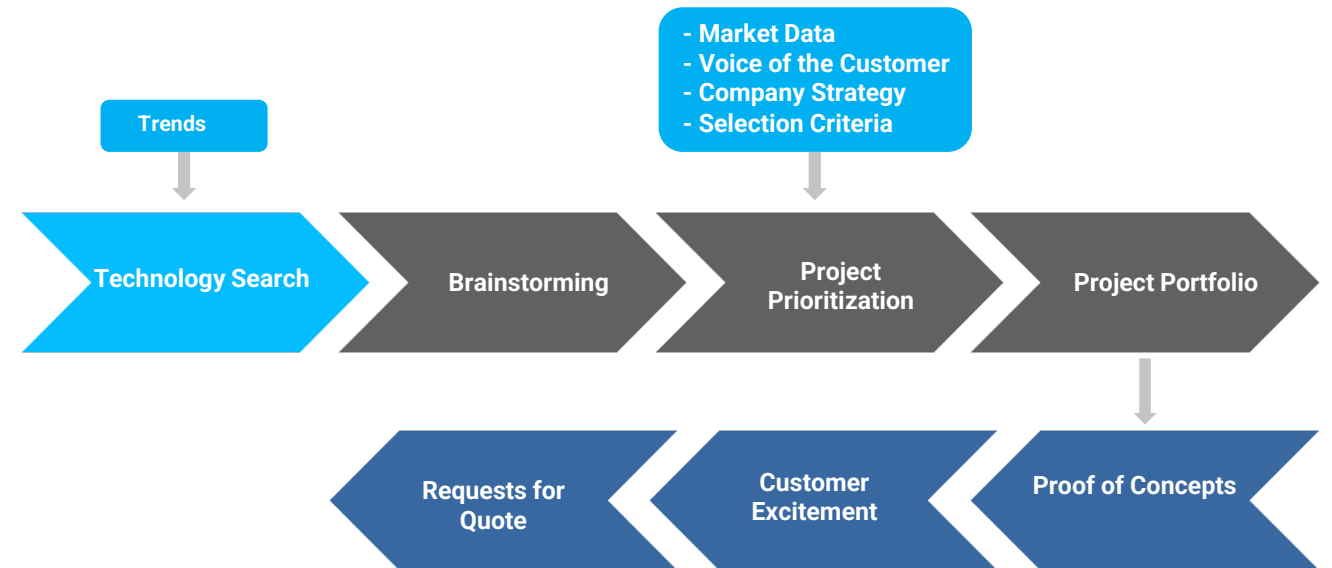
In Development

Features

- Smart Window Switch
- Heated Surface
- Illuminated Stitching & Perforation
- Large Area Lighting
- Hidden Front TPO

Development Process

- Look at the industry trends
 - Conferences, expositions, auto shows, etc.
 - Direct OEM discussions
- Build on this information to extrapolate customer and system requirements
- Develop concepts that best fit our capabilities
 - Brainstorming
 - Studio activities
- Build high quality proof of concept parts
- Performance is evaluated
- Parts are tested
- We use this data to further refine the design



Smart Surface Application

Applications can require each of these elements

Clear function – Intention

- Intuitive Interaction – UX / HMI
- Icons & Lighting

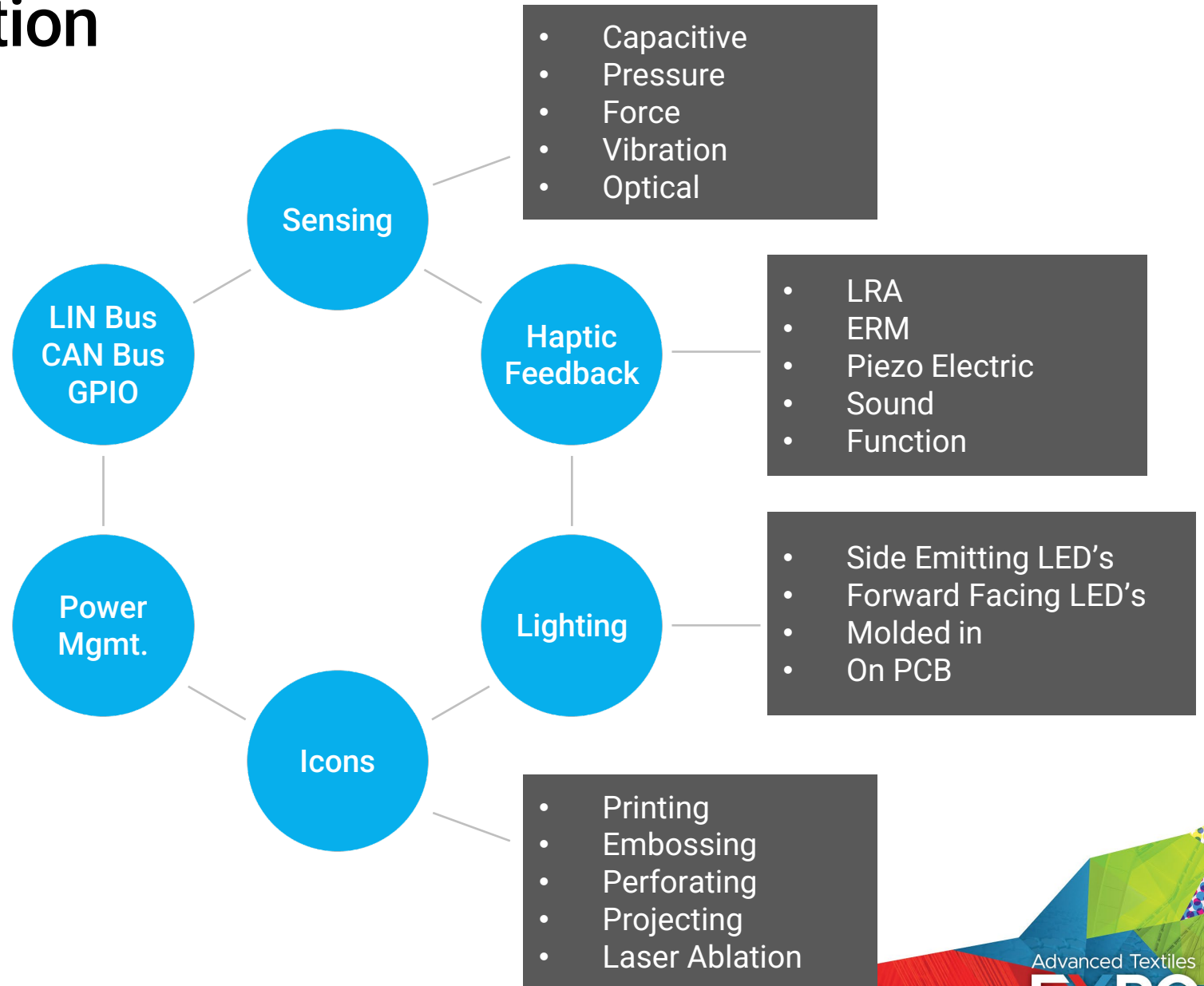
Feedback

- Did it work?
- Haptics and Lighting

Communication

- Indicate a selection event

Power



Smart Surfaces to Production

Tier 1

Partner

In-House Competencies

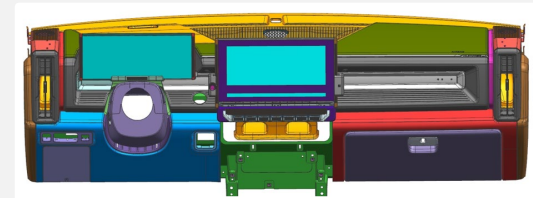
Materials



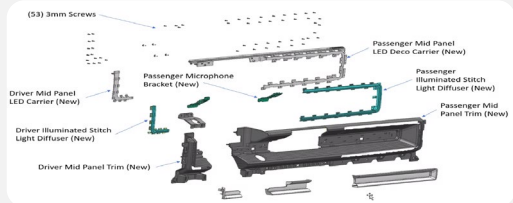
Lighting & Electronics



Packaging Evaluation



Concept Development



Industrialization

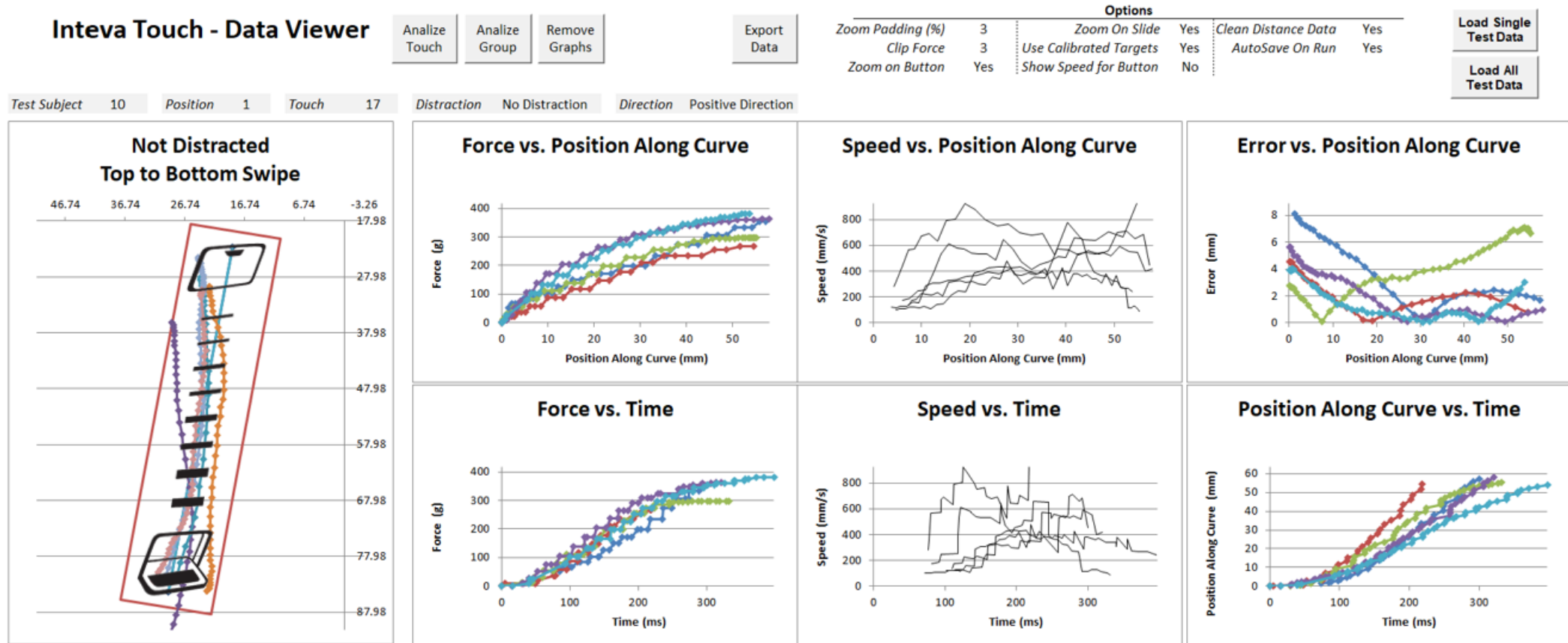


Production



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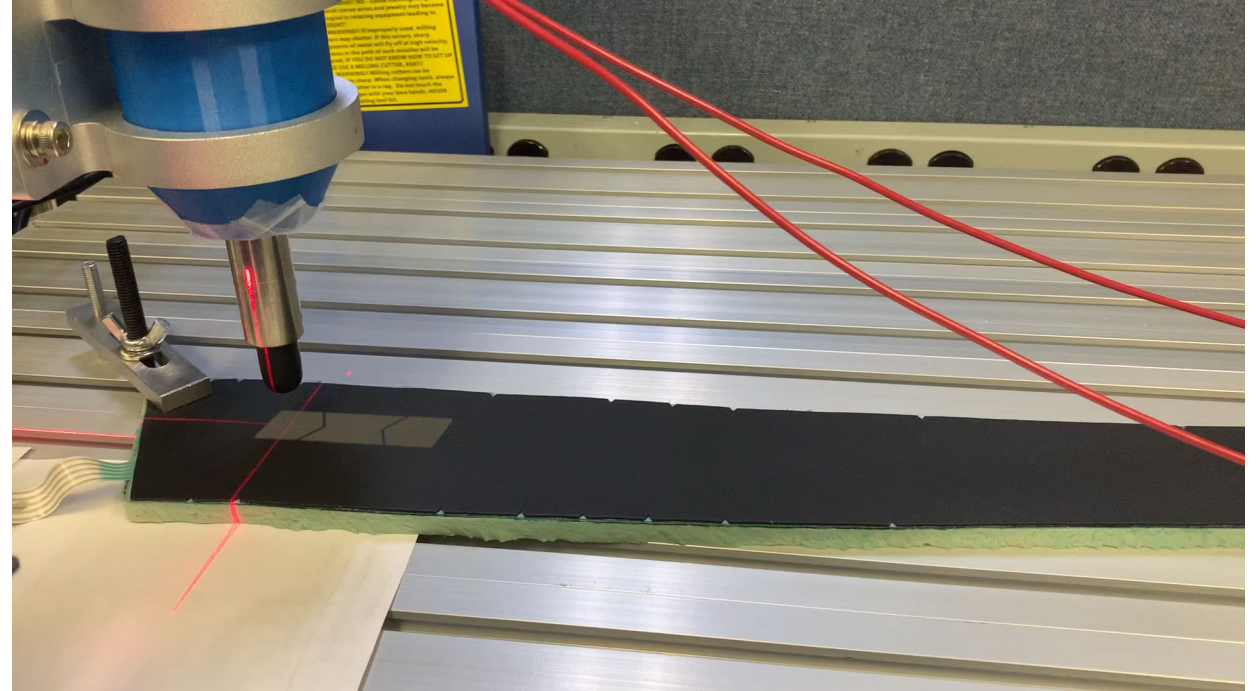
HMI Evaluation



Screenshot of Touch Data Viewer Excel Sheet

Machine Based Sensor Evaluation

- Simulation Gesture Swipe From Ergonomic Study
 - Pressure
 - Position
 - Speed
- Provides Variable Data For Capability Studies
- Improves Sensor Design



Challenges

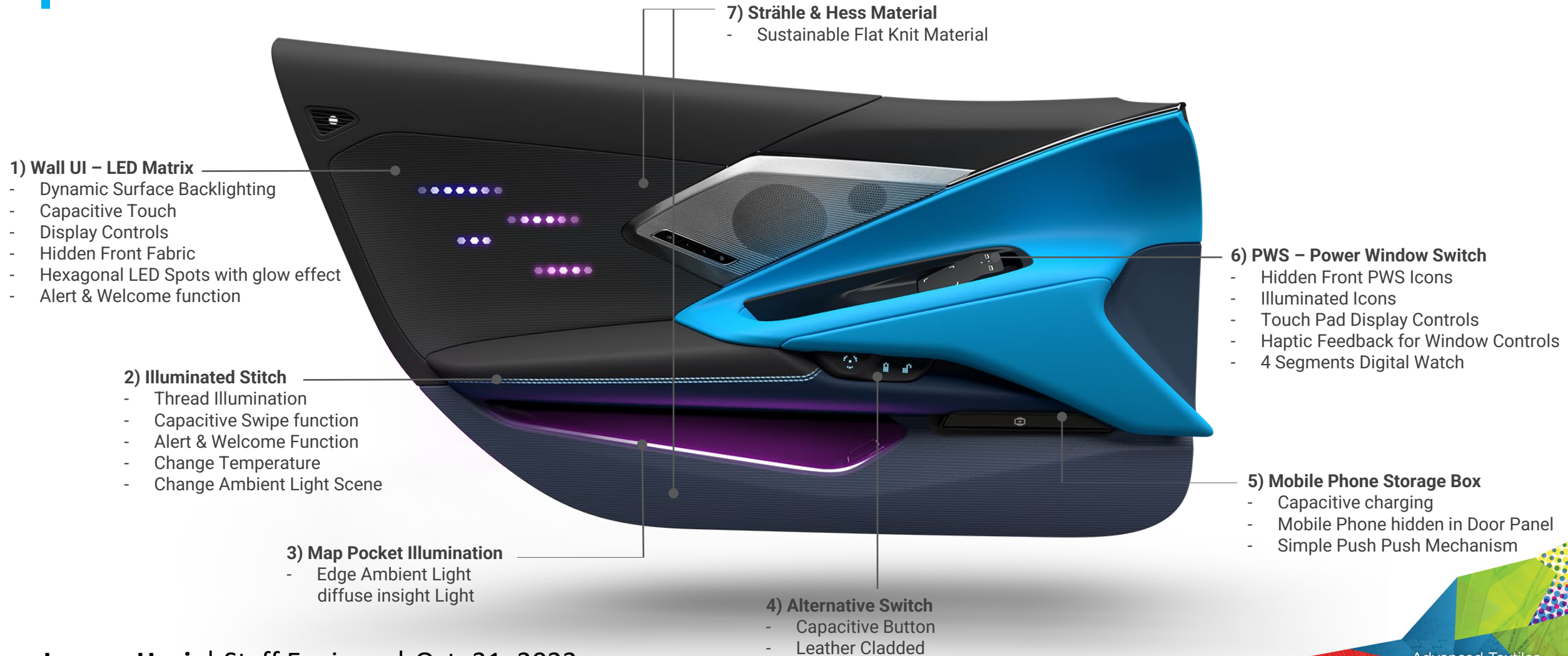
- Packaging
 - Introducing Electronics Into New Locations
 - Managing PCB Locations And Connections
- Understanding Customer Requirements
- Using All New Materials And Processes
- Maintaining A Thin, Flexible Design
 - Balancing Light Output And Thickness
 - Cut – Sew – Wrap Capability
- Maintaining Softness
- Providing Icons With High Distinction Of Image
- Verifying Good HMI Ergonomics
- Unique Challenges To Locating An HMI Where It Isn't Normally Found
 - Designing For Unintended Interaction
- Commercialization
- Keeping Pace With Trends – Especially Rigid Displays (Size & Quantity) – Assuring That Interest Isn't Shifting

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Unintended Actuators

Smart Door Trim



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Perforated & Stitched Decor Materials

Multifunctional Sewing Process

- Automatic, computer-controlled multifunction machine for sewing, embroidering and perforation
- Excellent repeatability & position accuracy
- Integration of switch/touch function

At a Glance

- Different material combinations
- Combination with illuminated thread
- Flexibility, no further or additional machines/operations for perforation or embroidery



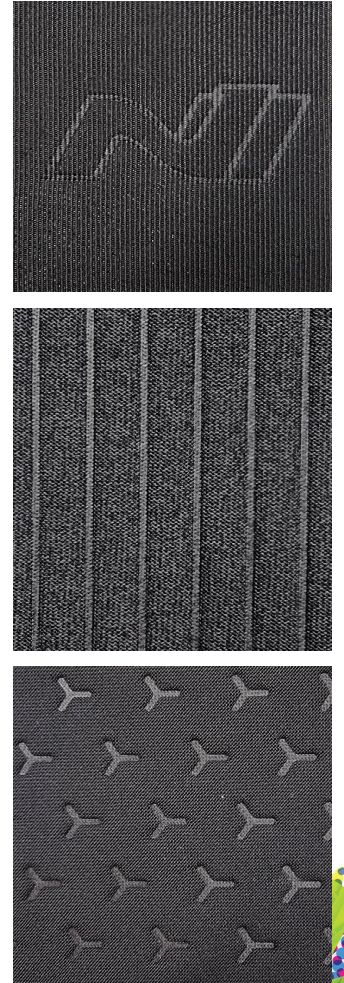
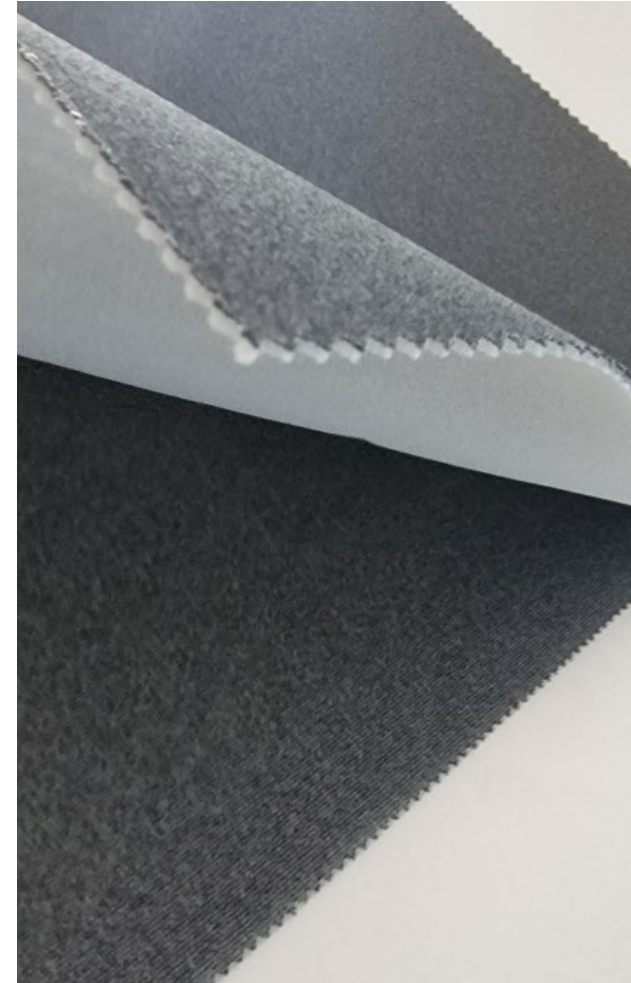
Specialty Fabric

Made in a one-step circular knitting process

- Fabric BACKLIT (backlight function only)
- Fabric ICONS (backlight of Icons)
- Fabric TOUCH (touch control & backlight)
- Fabric DESIGN LOGO (visual icon indication on surfaces)

At a Glance

- High transmission levels, up to 30%
- Very good material properties, tested according to the most critical OEM specifications
- Cost efficient, low weight material



Hidden Front TPO

Hidden Front Decor materials

- A thin, proprietary TPO that uses unique printing materials and methods to provide clear, sharp icons with hidden front functionality.

Several TPO offerings that provide hidden front functionality

- Clear TPO
 - 1st surface printed
 - 2nd surface printed
- Integral hidden front TPO

At a Glance

- High precision graphics
- Cut sew wrap offerings
- Thermoformed bi-laminate offerings
- Accommodates multiple levels of softness
- Application of artificial leather materials in CSW process
- Static or dynamic light animation of the surfaces



Alternative Switch

Leather wrapped capacitive switch

- Wrap Over Hard construction
- Fits a current production vehicle as a potential drop in replacement
- Capacitive Sensing Through Leather

At a Glance

- E-unlatch, lock & unlock functions
- LIN communications
- E-unlatch is full RGB
- Simple LED animations
- Package protected for haptic feedback
- Icon element shown round but do not have to be
- Excellent color match
- Very good viewing angles
- Packaging neutral to original

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ALPSALPINE



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Debossed Leather Sensor Element

Debossed Leather Construction Over PU Foam

- Full Soft Trim Level
- Gesture Control Of Glove Box Opening
- Capacitive Sensing Through Leather

At a Glance

- Example for glove box a power open / close
- Stretchable construction
- Embossed genuine leather
- Standard Cut & Sew compatibility
- Unlimited foam below first surface
- 3 Sensor elements for gesture control
- Opening and closing glove box
- Gloved hand and water tolerance design
- 1.4mm thick (or less)

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Glove Box Video



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Soft Surface HMI

Hidden Front TPO Construction

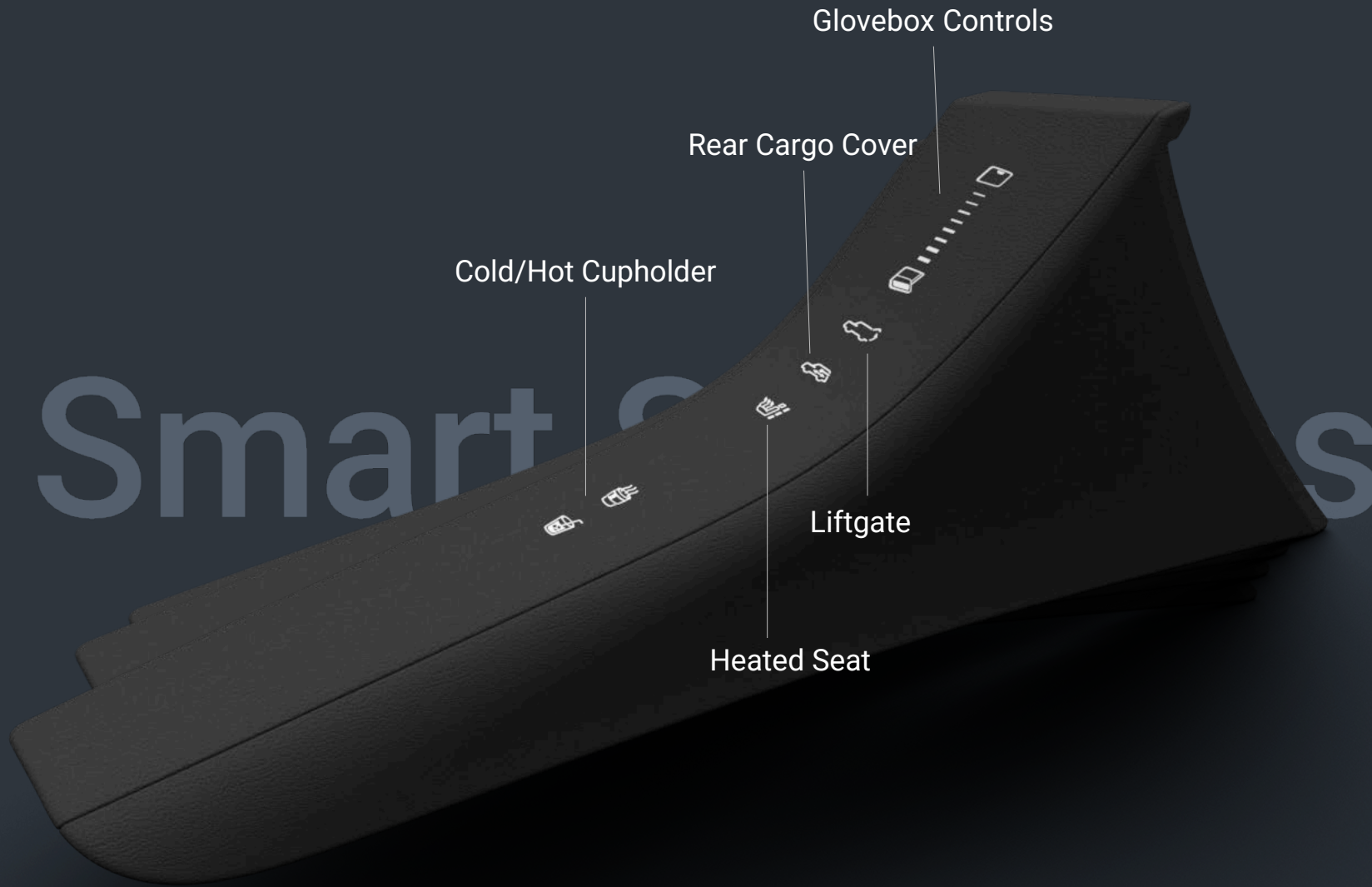
- Icons Appear With Proximity
- Full Soft Feel
- Capacitive Sensing With Back Lighting
 - Function for: Liftgate, Cargo Cover, Heated Seats, And Cup Heating / Cooling

At a Glance

- Hidden Front TPO
- Stretchable construction
- 26 LED's – 9 Groups – 4 Colors
- Simple LED animations
- 600 – 700 cd/m²
- 10 Sensor Element – 2 Sliders – 4 Discrete
- LIN capable
- 9 GPIO
- 1.7mm Thick
- Haptic feedback capable

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Soft Surface HMI

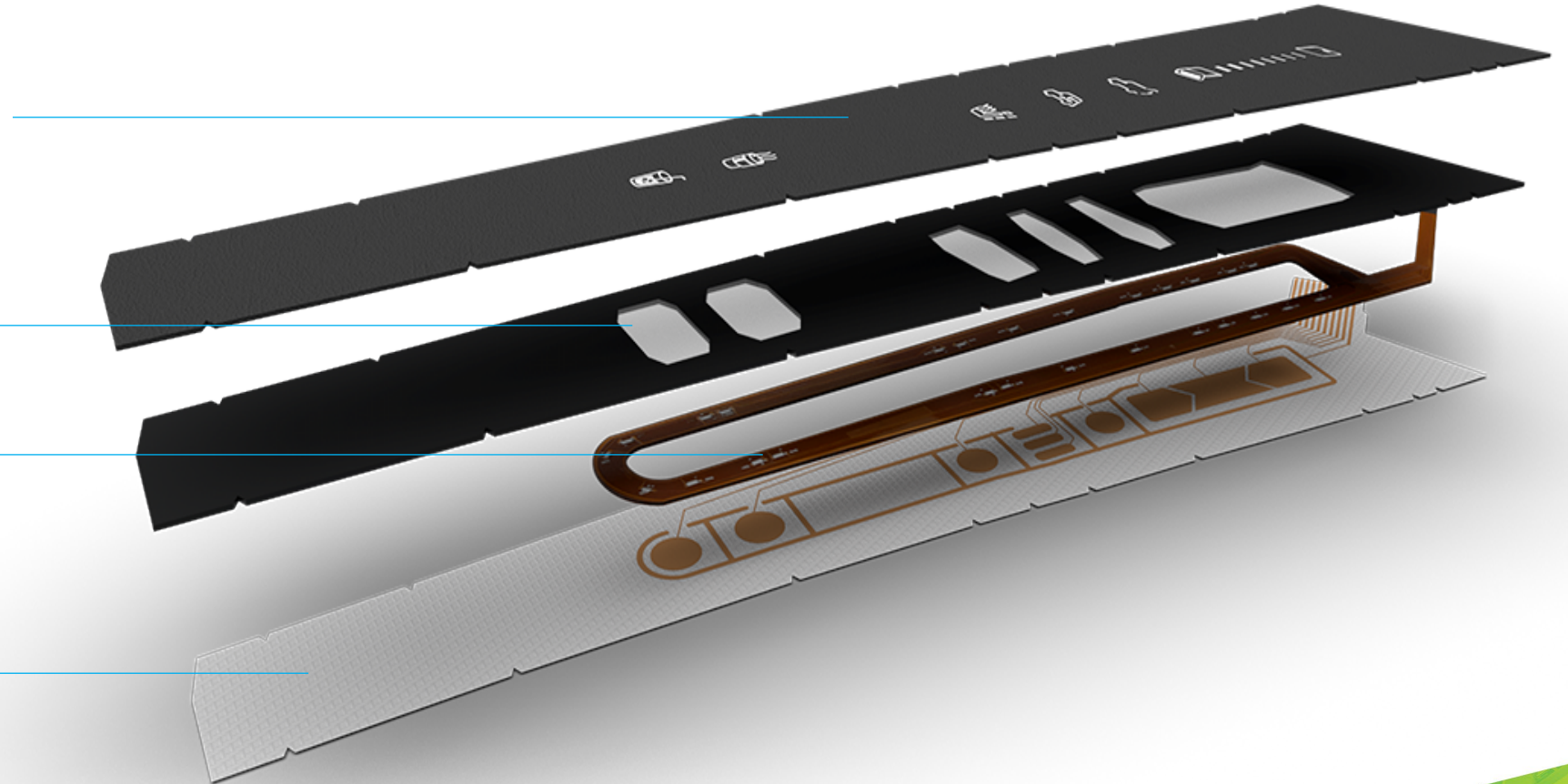
Construction

Hidden Front TPO Component

Silicone Over-Mold

LED Sub Assembly

Sensor Element



Smart Window Switch

Description

- Window location control pod with input feedback
- Express Anywhere
 - Eliminates frustration with express up-down systems

At a Glance

- Full leather wrap
- Protected wake up
- Express “Anywhere” Functionality
- LIN communications
- Haptic feedback
- Micro LED visual feedback
- High brightness design

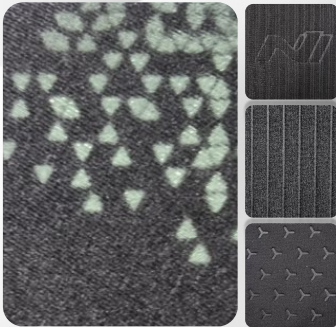


Floor Console

Smart Soft Surfaces Integration



Hidden Front (1st / 2nd Surface Printing)

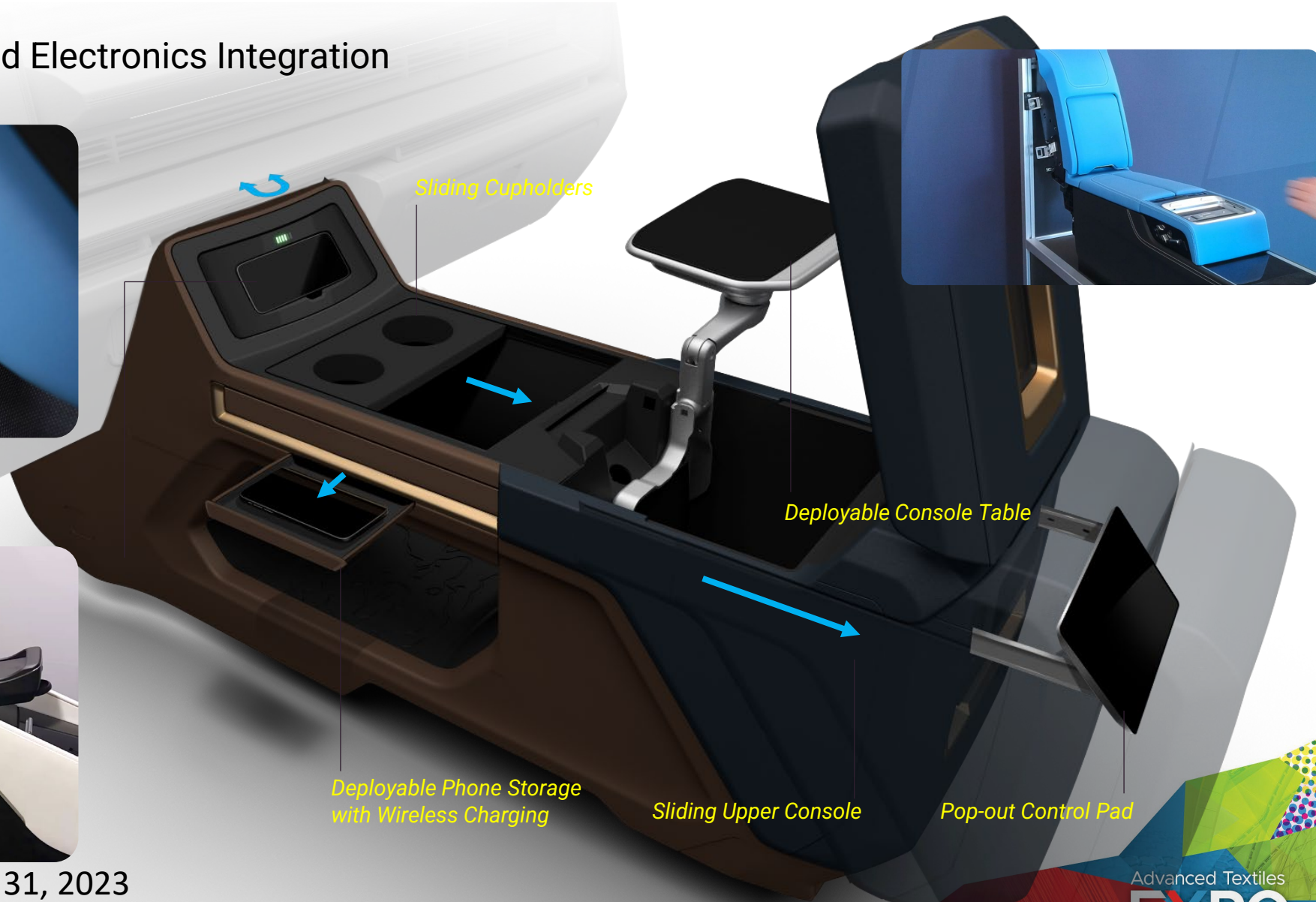


Back Illumination Through Perforation / Fabric

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Floor Console

Interiors, Closures, Motors and Electronics Integration



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Summary

- Continue to Look At Trends And Other Industry Drivers
- Continue To Develop A Portfolio Of Product Offerings
 - Various Softness And Constructions
 - Unique HMI Designs
- Continue To Advance The Technology
 - High Quality Proof Of Concept Parts
 - Detailed Assessment And Testing





Thank You