



**EXCO TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED**

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**2022 ANNUAL INFORMATION FORM**

**For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2022**

**December 6, 2022**

*Throughout this document the annual report of the Company for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2022 including the financial statements and notes thereto and management's discussion and analysis will be referred to as 'Annual Report'. The financial statements of the Company and notes thereto appearing in the Annual Report will be referred to as 'Financial Statements'. Management's discussion and analysis appearing in the Annual Report will be referred to as 'MD&A'.*

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## FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS

This document contains forward-looking information and forward-looking statements within the meaning of applicable securities laws. This information and statements relate to future events, plans and projections of our future performance, including in respect of projected growth, changing market conditions, improvements in productivity and future results and the assumptions underlying same. We use words such as "anticipate", "may", "will", "should", "expect", "believe", "estimate", "5-year target" and similar expressions to identify forward-looking information and statements especially with respect to growth, outlook and financial performance of the Company's business units, contribution of our start-up business units, contribution of awarded programs yet to be launched, margin performance, financial performance of acquisitions, liquidity, operating efficiencies, improvements in, expansion of and/or guidance or outlook as to future revenue, sales, production sales, margin, earnings, earnings per share, including the outlook for 2026. Such forward-looking information and statements are based on assumptions and analyses made by us in light of our experience and our perception of historical trends, current conditions and expected future developments, as well as other factors we believe to be relevant and appropriate in the circumstances.

Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking information and statements as there can be no assurance that the assumptions, plans, intentions or expectations upon which these statements are based will occur. These forward-looking statements are based on our plans, intentions or expectations which are based on, among other things, the impact of the global semiconductor shortage on automotive production volumes, the global economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and containment of any future or similar outbreak of epidemic, pandemic, or contagious diseases that may emerge in the human population, which may have a material effect on how we and our customers operate our businesses and the duration and extent to which this will impact our future operating results, the impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on the global financial, energy and automotive markets, including increased supply chain risks, assumptions about the number of automobiles produced in North America and Europe, production mix between passenger cars and trucks, the number of extrusion dies required in North America and South America, the rate of economic growth in North America, Europe and emerging market countries, investment by OEMs in drivetrain architecture and other initiatives intended to reduce fuel consumption and/or the weight of automobiles in response to rising climate risks, raw material prices, supply disruptions, economic conditions, inflation, currency fluctuations, trade restrictions, our ability to integrate acquisitions, our ability to continue increasing market share, or launch of new programs and the rate at which our current and future greenfield operations in Mexico and Morocco achieve sustained profitability. These forward-looking statements include known and unknown risks, uncertainties, assumptions and other factors which may cause actual results or achievements to be materially different from those expressed or implied. Information concerning the risks, uncertainties and assumptions are described in the "Risks and Uncertainties" and "Outlook" sections of this Management's Discussion and Analysis in our 2022 Annual Report and in other reports and securities filings made by the Company. More information, including Exco's Annual Report, is available at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com) or from Exco.

While Exco believes that the expectations expressed by such forward-looking statements are reasonable, we cannot assure that they will be correct. In evaluating forward-looking information and statements, readers should carefully consider the various factors which could cause actual results or events to differ materially from those indicated in the forward-looking information and statements. Readers are cautioned that the foregoing list of important factors is not exhaustive. Furthermore, the Company will update its disclosure upon publication of each fiscal quarter's financial results and otherwise disclaims any obligations to update publicly or otherwise revise any such factors or any of the forward-looking information or statements contained herein to reflect subsequent information, events or developments, changes in risk factors or otherwise.

## ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPANY

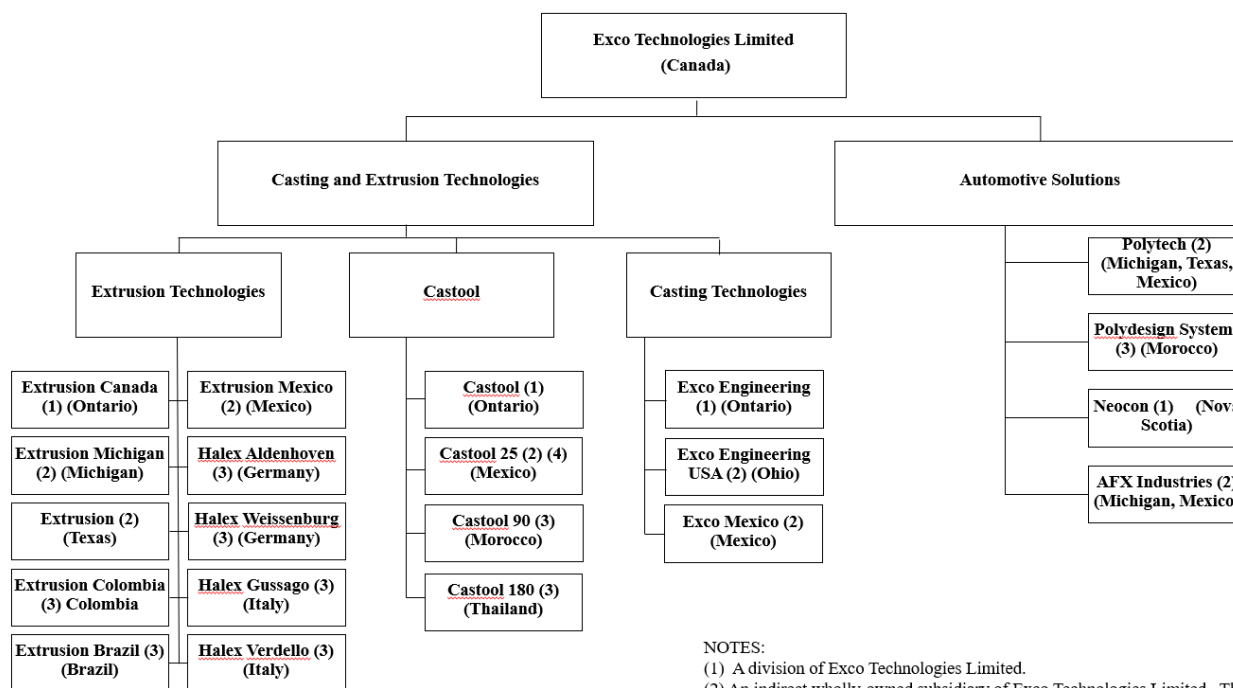
Exco Technologies Limited ("Exco" or the "Company") was formed by articles of amalgamation dated July 28, 1986 under the *Business Corporations Act* (Ontario) amalgamating Exco Holdings Inc. and two other holding companies with Extrusion Machine Co. Limited ("Extrusion") and Qualitool Inc. Extrusion was founded by H.H. Robbins, the father of the current Executive Chairman of the Company, and has carried on business since 1952 under the trade name Exco. Exco carries on business through 15 operating entities as indicated on the following organization chart.

The Company's registered and principal office is at 130 Spy Court, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Markham, Ontario, L3R 5H6.

Exco is a global designer, developer and manufacturer of dies, moulds, components and assemblies, and consumable equipment for the die-cast, extrusion and automotive industries. Through its 20 strategic locations, Exco employs approximately 5,000 people and services a diverse and broad customer base. Each operation constitutes an autonomous profit centre within the Company but draws upon Exco's pool of expertise and technology. The Company reports in two operating segments.

The Casting and Extrusion segment designs, develops and manufactures die-casting and extrusion tooling and consumable parts for both aluminum die-casting and aluminum extrusion machines. Operations are based in North America, South America, Europe, Thailand and Morocco and serve automotive and industrial markets around the world. Exco is a leader in most of its markets which principally consist of North America for die-cast tooling, Europe, North and South America for extrusion tooling and globally for consumable tooling parts and related equipment. Across its markets, Exco is focused on further entrenching itself by reducing lead times and manufacturing costs through design and process enhancements. Major capital projects have been implemented in recent years to increase capacity, reduce lead times, further improve quality and reduce costs. In the machine consumables market, Exco is leveraging its long tradition as a reliable, high-quality supplier of consumable components for the injection system of die-cast machines and aluminum extrusion presses by evaluating, coordinating and ultimately maximizing customers' overall equipment performance and longevity.

The Automotive Solutions segment designs, develops and manufactures automotive interior trim components and assemblies primarily for passenger and light truck vehicles. The Polytech and Polydesign businesses manufacture synthetic net and other cargo restraint products, injection-moulded components, shift/ brake boots, related interior trim components and assemblies. Polydesign is also a manufacturer and/or finisher of injection moulded interior trim and instrument panel components, sun visors, seat covers, head rests and other cut and sew products. Neocon is a supplier of soft plastic trunk trays, rigid plastic trunk organizer systems, floor mats and bumper covers. AFX Industries is a tier 2 supplier of leather and leather-like interior trim components to the North American automotive market. AFX also supplies die cut leather sets for seating and many other interior trim applications as well as injection-moulded, hand-sewn, machine-sewn and hand-wrapped interior trim components of all sorts. Automotive Solutions manufacturing facilities are located in Canada, the United States, Mexico, and Morocco supplying the automotive markets in North America, Europe and to a lesser extent, Asia.



NOTES:  
 (1) A division of Exco Technologies Limited.  
 (2) An indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Exco Technologies Limited. The Company also indirectly wholly-owns, where applicable, all non-voting securities.  
 (3) A wholly-owned subsidiary of Exco Technologies Limited.  
 (4) Castool 25 building under construction – opening date Q3 F2023

### **THREE YEAR HISTORY OF THE COMPANY'S BUSINESS (2020-2022)**

#### **Fiscal 2022**

- Opening ceremony for Castool 90 in Morocco was held in November 2021. Castool 90 is a full-service operating facility to service the European market from Morocco's free trade zone.
- On May 2, 2022 the Company completed the 100% acquisition of the ownership interest in Halex Holding GmbH ("Halex") for consideration of \$60.2 million. Halex operates four key manufacturing plants – two in Italy and two in Germany. The results of Halex will be reported within the Company's Casting and Extrusion segment.
- In February 2022 the Company renewed and increased its Committed Revolving Credit Facility to \$125 million and extended the maturity date to February 2025. The facility is collateralized by a general security agreement covering all assets of the Company's subsidiaries located in Canada and the US, with the exception of real property.
- Construction of Castool 25 in Queretaro Mexico. The facility is expected to open in the third quarter of Fiscal 2023 and it will increase manufacturing capacity to better penetrate the market in Mexico and South America.
- Castool Heat treatment - Situated within our existing Newmarket facility, phase 1 of this project was completed in the third quarter of Fiscal 2022. Phase 2 is expected to be completed in the second quarter of Fiscal 2023. This facility gives us the ability to process regular and oversized components, ensure faster delivery to our customers, increase quality control, mitigate risks of relying on a third-party supplier for an essential process and the energy efficient equipment reduces the Company's carbon dioxide footprint.
- Large Mould added a fifth additive machine, increased its crane capacity to 100 tons, and added additional medium and large 5-axis milling machines at its facilities.
- Extrusion Group Heat Treatment capacity was increased in Texas, added in Mexico. The replacement project in Markham continues and will be completed in early Fiscal 2023.
- Automotive Solutions – the Polytech and Neocon facilities expansion was completed during the year providing an extra 40,000 square feet to meet the growing demand from our customers' significant program awards.

#### **Fiscal 2021**

- Completed construction of Castool 90 in Morocco.
- Castool Mexico – Construction of this greenfield facility was approved in fiscal 2021.
- Large Mould – During the year, the Large Mould group added a fourth additive machine and ordered significant machinery to further modernize our operations and enhance efficiency across the group. Also positions us to capture growth in the very large die-cast segment. Installation of this equipment began in fiscal 2021 and will continue throughout fiscal 2022.
- Extrusion group Heat Treatment – During fiscal 2021, management evaluated the Extrusion group's heat treatment capabilities and approved three projects: adding Heat treatment in Mexico, increasing capacity in Texas, and replacing our Markham Heat treatment with energy efficient equipment.

#### **Fiscal 2020**

- Purchased land in Kenitra Morocco to launch Castool 90-S.A.R.L AU ("Castool 90").
- Renewed the Company's \$50 million Committed Revolving Credit Facility with JPMorgan to extend the maturity date to February 28, 2023. The facility is collateralized by a general security agreement covering all the assets of the Company's subsidiaries located in Canada and the US, with the exception of real property. There are no specific repayment terms prior to maturity.

### **ACQUISITION AND DIVESTITURES**

The Company has made several major acquisitions since 1986. In Fiscal 2021 and 2020, the Company focused on organic growth and building greenfield operations in its Casting and Extrusion segment. During Fiscal 2022 the Company completed one acquisition which is listed below. This acquisition does not constitute a "significant acquisition" within the meaning of such term in National Instrument 51-102 – Continuous Disclosure Obligations of the Canadian Securities Administrators. Additional information about the acquisition listed below can be found in Note 18 of our consolidated financial statement as at and for the year ended September 30, 2022.

<b>Acquisitions</b>		
<b>2022</b>	<b>Halex</b>	The Company purchased 100% of the ownership of Halex Aldenhoven, Halex Weissenburg, Halex Gussago and Halex Verdello
2021	None	
2020	None	
<b>Divestitures</b>		
<b>2022</b>	<b>None</b>	
2021	None	
2020	None	

**VISION, MISSION, VALUES, AND SUSTAINABILITY**

The Company’s vision is “to be the benchmark for innovation, efficiency and quality in the industries we serve.” The Company’s mission is “we enhance the look and functionality of passenger vehicles and tool up light metal industries for superior performance.” Exco has pursued several key strategies to achieve sustainable revenue and earnings growth. These include: (1) strengthening our leadership and competitive position in our chosen markets through automation and technology, (2) minimizing our cost structure, (3) maintaining the bulk of our productive capacity in lower-cost jurisdictions and in close proximity to our customers’ operations, (4) diversifying our revenue base with new products and services that leverage our competitive strengths, and (5) capitalizing on organic and inorganic growth opportunities in both our existing and select developing markets.

Exco was founded on a commitment to excellence and a culture of entrepreneurship and dedication to ethical business practices. We encourage continuance of these traits by providing incentives for our managers to grow their business and giving our employees the latitude to push the envelope on innovation while adhering to our Code of Conduct. We are also mindful that sustainable operations require the benefits of diversity at all levels of our organization, a focus on all our stakeholders, and above all, a safe and healthy work environment. Of course, we fully commit to conducting our business in an ethical, transparent and responsible way and we expect the same from our business partners. We summarize these characteristics with our published values:

- Safety:* We strive for all our employees to go home unharmed
- Entrepreneurial spirit:* Our culture fosters idea generation and risk taking
- Excellence:* We set the standard for high quality craftsmanship
- Integrity:* We expect honesty and transparency in all our dealings
- Accountability:* We empower our people to make decisions and reward them accordingly
- Inclusion:* We believe that a diverse workforce delivers the best results
- Social responsibility:* We are focused on a sustainable future through implementation of our ESG strategic priorities.

Our ESG Strategic Priorities:

Exco’s Sustainability Report 2022 is available on the corporate website (excocorp.com) which provides details regarding the Company’s ESG goals and objectives. The main features of this report include:

- Marketplace:* Leader in innovation for vehicle light weighting and sustainable production processes.
- Environment:* Responsible use of resources, including energy efficiency, waste management, use of recycled materials and a focus on clean energy.
- People:* Diversity and inclusion, health and safety, training and development, fair labor practices.
- Society:* Giving back to local communities.
- Governance:* Board diversity and balanced oversight

## **DESCRIPTION OF COMPANY**

The Company's head office staff consists of seven persons who have responsibility for the collection of financial data, budgetary controls, banking, treasury, insurance, corporate philosophy and policy. The Company reports the corporate office as an operating segment. Each of Exco's main divisions are operated as autonomous profit centres and are part of either the Casting and Extrusion Technology or the Automotive Solutions operating segments.

The profit centre basis enables the Company to reward individual managers and senior employees for results generated directly by their performance. The maintenance of focused divisions enables the Company to respond quickly to customer requirements, shifts in the market and encourages innovation. As well, the independence of each plant allows Exco to react quickly to new business opportunities. This organizational structure allows decision-making and cost control to occur at the operational level.

Management believes that the personal and financial rewards offered to employees have resulted in a very stable and highly skilled work force, which includes a significant number who are engineers, toolmakers and machinists. In addition, it is the Company's belief that separate operating divisions lead to better employee relations, as management is able to work individually with employees on a daily basis.

### **Human Resources**

Overall, the Casting and Extrusion Technology segment has approximately 1,082 employees, approximately 248 of which are salaried and include design engineers and technicians. Approximately 834 are hourly employees of which 83 in Mexico and Brazil are unionized.

The Automotive Solutions segment has approximately 3,820 employees of which 396 are salaried and 3,424 are hourly. There are approximately 1,831 employees within the Polytech and AFX production facilities in Matamoros Mexico that are subject to a collective bargaining agreement.

Exco believes employee relations are good with the Mexico and Brazil employees subject to a collective bargaining agreements. The Company provides rewards to these employees through a combination of financial benefits and personal recognition.

At several Exco locations where design and engineering capabilities are integral parts of the business model Exco encourages further education of employees and is an active participant in apprenticeship programs. In addition, the Company co-operates with and supports several local community colleges and universities from which it typically draws its design engineers.

### **Tooling, Engineering, Innovations and Intellectual Property**

#### ***Tooling***

The Casting and Extrusion segment designs, engineers, and manufactures tooling which is sold separately to our customers and is not part of a production environment. The Automotive Solutions segment primarily purchases tools from third parties for production programs that are sold to our customers on a pass-through basis.

#### ***Engineering***

The Company employs engineers with a wide range of skills in design and development of new products, processes, and manufacturing. Each business group is responsible for their individual engineering requirements but will also leverage support from the other groups for collaborative projects if required. The Company has mechanical and design engineering capabilities, with the ability to design both tools and parts and the capability to work with various CAD and CAM systems. The Company communicates electronically with customers' engineering departments to provide its customers with industry leading engineering support.

While many of the Automotive Solutions segments products are convenience products for the interior passenger compartments and trunks of vehicles, they are highly engineered to meet strict safety regulations. The flexible storage

and leather products must meet flammability, ultraviolet degradation, fogging/gassing and elasticity specifications. Flexible restraint systems are designed and tested as safety restraining devices which include technically demanding requirements. Steering wheel wrapping products are tested for reaction to human skin oils and various hand cream and lotions as these are in constant contact with the steering wheel wrapping.

### ***Innovation and Intellectual Property***

The Company's ability to develop new technology, products and manufacturing processes and its engineering and design capabilities will be key factors in continuing to generate new business opportunities and remaining competitive. The Company's research and development activities are closely tied to both customer requirements through improved design developments and manufacturing processes. The Company has developed considerable expertise including technical and design experience, and skilled engineering groups.

The Company holds certain intellectual property rights such as patents and trademarks and uses them in the course of its business. While in the aggregate our intellectual property and licenses are considered important in the operating of our business, the Company does not believe that loss or termination of any particular right would have a material adverse effect on its business.

### **Facilities**

Our manufacturing facilities occupy approximately 1,286,000 square feet. Over 93% of the Company's facilities are owned with 87,000 square feet leased. The Casting and Extrusion Segment utilizes approximately 682,000 square feet and the Automotive Solutions segment utilizes 604,000 square feet. The facilities by country are as follows:

Canada	Mexico (Note 1)	United States	Morocco	Colombia	Brazil	Italy	Germany	Thailand
4	5	3	2	1	1	2	2	1

Note 1 – During Fiscal 2022 the Company began construction of Castool 25 in Queretaro Mexico. The building will be approximately 41,000 square feet. The plant is expected to begin production in the third quarter Fiscal 2023.

### **Consolidated Sales**

The distribution of Exco's sales by segment is as follows:

	2022	2021
Casting and Extrusion Technology	<b>\$236,034</b>	\$197,970
Automotive Solutions	<b>253,909</b>	263,201
	<b>\$489,943</b>	\$461,171

Sales by geography (destination) are as follows:

	2022	2021
Canada	<b>\$35,587</b>	\$27,309
United States	<b>290,175</b>	284,819
Europe	<b>81,126</b>	72,749
Mexico	<b>52,552</b>	50,262
South America	<b>14,767</b>	8,447
Asia	<b>9,899</b>	9,316
Other	<b>5,837</b>	8,269
	<b>\$489,943</b>	\$461,171



Exco's markets are well defined and sales are developed through target marketing. During fiscal 2022, sales to our largest customers as percentages of total sales are as follows:

	2022	2021
General Motors	5.3%	5.5%
Hydro ASA	5.1%	3.6%
Nissan	4.2%	5.7%

## CASTING AND EXTRUSION TECHNOLOGY SEGMENT

Exco operates three related tooling and equipment businesses, namely: (i) Extrusion Technology, which involves the design and manufacture of dies for aluminum extrusions, (ii) Casting Technology, which comprises the design and manufacture of moulds for aluminum die castings as well as other light metals and (iii) extrusion and casting equipment technology (Castool), which involves the design and manufacture of components for the injection system of extrusion presses and die casting machines and other equipment accessory to these presses/machines. This segment represented 48% of Exco's revenue in fiscal 2022.

Manufacturing Facilities	Countries	Employees	Sales
16	Canada USA Italy Germany Mexico Colombia Brazil Thailand Morocco	1,082	\$236 million

### *Raw Material Purchases*

The primary raw material in this segment is high quality tool steel. Steel costs can fluctuate depending on commodity prices and micro- and macro-economic variables. The Company purchases the majority of its steel from international suppliers from Canada, United States, Germany and China. In the last decade steel prices have been volatile – in the current year raw material prices have increased considerably as inflation impacted production of steel, shipping and labour. Primarily in the Extrusion Group, the Company passes on steel surcharges to its customers thereby causing revenue to increase or decrease as surcharges fluctuate. In recent years, duties on imports of steel into the USA were implemented. Many importers received exemptions from these tariffs in 2019. The status of these duties is changing frequently, and the Company monitors these changes. Similar to raw material price increases, the Company passes these duties on to customers wherever possible.

### **Extrusion Technology**

The Company manufactures a range of tooling products used by its customers in the aluminum extrusion industry. Aluminum extrusion dies are the most significant product area, complemented by other products, allowing the Company to offer an aluminum extrusion system. Aluminum extrusion dies are made of round discs of high nickel chrome alloy tool steel. Aluminum extrusion dies are used in the production of aluminum extrusions. In this process, a preheated aluminum billet is forced through an aperture in the extrusion die at the end of a cylinder causing the metal to assume the shape of the aperture in the extrusion die.

Each extrusion die must be individually designed. This involves a combination of science and art. The design and manufacture of extrusion dies has become increasingly complex as extruders require thinner wall thickness and finer tolerances. The majority of extrusion dies are custom-designed, with the balance being repeat shapes. The skill in producing first class extrusion tools is based on engineering skill and knowledge to design tools that meet increasing

customer expectations as well as developing processes with high technology capital equipment and a skilled workforce that can turn the designs around for customers in less than 2 weeks.

Each division designs and manufactures aluminum extrusion dies, and supplies them to aluminum extruders in North America, Central and South America, the Far East and Europe. Exco has been involved in designing and supplying extrusion dies for over 70 years.

### ***Customers and the Market***

Extrusion tooling customers include vertically integrated aluminum producers as well as independent extruders who supply aluminum extrusions to custom fabrication companies or to their own captive fabrication divisions. Aluminum extrusions are used in an increasing number of applications. The most significant application is as a building material, specifically for window framing, architectural facings of buildings and in the industrial truck and trailer market. However, the complexity and configuration of possible extrusions is virtually infinite. Applications of complex extruded components are used in the computer, electronic and aerospace industries as well as the automotive industry, where aluminum extrusion applications are expanding significantly. With more stringent emissions standards and “light-weighting” requirements for new cars and trucks, there is a significant trend to utilizing higher amounts of aluminum extruded products. This trend is expected to continue with the increased use of EVs and hybrid technologies in vehicles. The individual die is a critical component in the extrusion process, but a relatively insignificant portion of the total cost of the overall aluminum extrusion manufacturing process which contributes to drive strong demand for extrusion dies.

Over the last few decades extruders of certain aluminum products have moved their operations to China and other low-cost locations. These products are typically simple, yet high volume, consumer products distributed throughout North America by mass retailers such as Wal Mart and Home Depot. Tooling required by these extruders, in many cases, was resourced to tool shops located near the new extruding operations in China and other low-cost locations. This trend stabilized several years ago and in the last few years has reversed as many extruders are returning to North America after the imposition of anti-dumping duties on Chinese imports in 2010. After sunset review in 2017 these duties remain in place.

The Company estimates that the extrusion tooling market in North America and Europe is approximately \$US600 million annually. Exco believes that it is currently the largest supplier in the Canadian and U.S. extrusion tooling markets, the second largest supplier in Europe and that it accounts for approximately 20-25% of sales in these key markets. On a world-wide basis, the Company believes it is the largest independent supplier of Extrusion Tools in the world. Sales to and within the United States have grown due to a focused marketing effort. The market in Central and South America is significant and should continue to grow as those countries develop their infrastructure and grow their economies.

The North American and European extrusion tooling industries are comprised of a few large players and a number of much smaller operations, which are all privately owned. Both markets have experienced consolidation over the last few years in response to an increasing demand for quality, faster delivery and very competitive pricing which require a significant investment in technology. This trend is continuing although at a more moderate pace. Exco continues to make the investment it believes to be necessary to remain a leading supplier in this market. As a result, the Company purchased the four Halex extrusion facilities in Italy and Germany, and opened its newest greenfield Extrusion Tooling plant in Queretaro Mexico in April 2019. Given Exco’s size, multi-plant footprint (with many locations in low cost countries), advanced manufacturing processes and ready access to capital, Exco management believes that it is in a better position than most of its competitors to continue to prosper.

The Company believes that its best marketing tools are its engineering capability, its broad reputation for quality and reliability and its ability to design, manufacture and ship dies typically within 10 days. Management and marketing is primarily conducted at the divisional group level with all plants coordinating their marketing efforts. Sales contact continues to be maintained through each plant’s engineering department. Purchase orders are received on a daily basis from our customers (aluminum extruders). In turn, extrusion toolmakers must respond with the design and delivery of dies often in less than 2 weeks. Orders are typically processed and shipped by the tooling plant to the customer based on geography or technical needs of the order.

## **Casting Technology**

The Company designs and manufactures die-cast moulds. Moulds produced by Exco are used to produce aluminum, magnesium and structural aluminum high pressure die-castings for the automotive industry. The die-castings are produced by forcing molten aluminum or magnesium into the mould under extremely high pressure, with the resultant die-casting precisely reflecting the detailed shape of the mould.

The Company believes that it is the largest independent manufacturer of large high pressure die-cast moulds in North America.

Exco Engineering supplies some of the largest and most complex moulds produced in the world. It has developed and applied many new techniques to this industry. Exco engineers and accurately machines mould components, thereby reducing cost and the need for specially produced spare parts. Moulds supplied by Exco Engineering are used primarily in the automotive industry to produce transmission case castings, engine blocks and, increasingly, structural parts for both Internal Combustion Engines (ICE) or Electric Vehicles (EV).

## ***Customers and the Market***

The primary customers of the mould-making sector are the major automakers (Original Equipment Manufacturers or “OEM”) and Tier 1 die casters. As well as doing their own die casting, the automakers purchase some of their requirements from independent custom die casters. Aluminum die cast moulds are also used in the production of non-automotive products but these are not a focus of Exco.

Participants in the automotive transmission case, engine block, and large structural component mould-making sector are OEMs’ in-house mould shops and several other companies situated in North America, Europe, Japan and China. The rest of the mould making sector participants are diverse and generally small owner-operated businesses. Recent years have seen greater global sourcing of large tools from a more crowded vendor base, though we believe none of our competitors have the design, development and additive manufacturing capability of our large mould businesses. Additionally, while a handful of tool shops market similar capability as Exco, nearly all rely on extensive subcontracting in order to do so, often outsourcing the most highly engineered and longest lead time components, which Exco typically produces in house.

Over the last five years tool shops located in Western Europe have increased their competitive presence in North America. These organizations had been struggling in their home markets where economic conditions were relatively weak. However, the weakening Euro against the US dollar made their exports to North America more competitive. European competitors primarily source steel from China, raising transportation costs and ESG concerns. In North America, Western European tool shops have largely competed on the basis of price, without offering the level of engineering, design or production support Exco typically offers. Competitive pressures from European tool shops in North America has become less pronounced in more recent years but the Euro remains depressed against the US dollar, so the competition continues.

One of the main applications of die casting in the automobile industry is in the manufacture of powertrain components including transmission housings, engine blocks, and housings for water pumps, oil pumps and differentials. Increasingly a number of structural components in the vehicle are also being die-cast. These components include shock towers, engine cradles, cross members, A/B Pillars, torque boxes, battery boxes, and longitudinal members. This is occurring as automotive OEMs substitute steel with lighter weight and less complex aluminum castings in order to meet regulations related to improved fuel efficiency and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

Most of the innovation required for automakers to achieve these levels of mileage improvement will come from improvements to the internal combustion engine and powertrain. Specifically, the move from 5 and 6 speed automatic transmissions to 8, 9 and 10 speed automatic transmissions, in redesigned form, will continue to dominate the North American powertrain landscape well into and beyond 2025. This is also the preferred powertrain architecture for hybrid electric vehicles. Redesigned four-cylinder engines will also increase in dominance in North America. The new fuel efficiency standards are also placing renewed emphasis on reducing the overall weight of automobiles including engines and transmissions.

Somewhat similarly, while it is difficult to estimate when and to what extent the EV will more significantly disrupt the conventional combustion engine industry, we expect any disruption to the large mould business to be mitigated by the continuing need for large high pressure die castings in electric vehicles, with battery boxes and rotor/stator housings being well suited to the high pressure die casting process. As well, electric vehicles typically make extensive use of aluminum in the structure of the vehicle in order to reduce overall weight which is critical to maximizing the driving range between charge cycles.

The Company expects to benefit from these developments in two ways. First, the focus on light weighting should generally translate into increased aluminum content in future vehicles, meaning more die cast tooling generally and a broad-based benefit to tool builders like Exco. Second, to the extent the fuel economy targets mean all new engines and transmissions these programs are a strong fit with Exco's ability to deliver the required tool and represent a barrier for tool shops that generally focus on building tooling to existing designs.

The complexity and intricacy of the moulds have increased as designers incorporate more features into the die cast components. Dies are also becoming smaller as engine design is moving to smaller displacement three- and four-cylinder engines and transmission housings. This trend may be offset by the rise in structural components, which in many cases, require larger tools and a greater emphasis on flow characteristics and flexibility rather than rigidity. As quality requirements have increased, the die making and designing process has become increasingly complex and sophisticated.

The Company estimates that the North American market for mould making and repair for automotive transmission case and engine block programs is approximately US\$200 million annually depending on new programs and how many vehicles are sold in any given year. However, as mentioned previously, the market for other large die-cast transmissions and engine blocks is increasing as aluminum replaces other materials and technologies (such as cast iron and sand casting, for example) and as OEMs increasingly redesign their powertrain systems in order to achieve higher fuel efficiency. An emerging trend is the use of aluminum to make structural automotive components. While often a more technically challenging die-cast process requiring an alloy known as A365 aluminum, the structural die casting process can create much lighter parts than traditionally achievable with steel. This opens an entirely new market for Exco as the size of the moulds required and the complexity of the process are uniquely suited to Exco's crane and milling equipment capacity, our in-house foundry, and engineering/ design talent. The Company believes this market may eventually be larger than that of the traditional powertrain products.

An additional trend in the die cast industry is the development of larger die cast machines (or giga presses). Traditionally large die cast machines ranged from 3000 to 4000 tons. These die cast machines build the parts referenced earlier. However, there is an ongoing trend to make larger die cast parts for structural components of vehicles to eliminate the need for traditional stamped, welded and assembled "body in white" parts which required multiple Tier suppliers, many work steps, extra shipping and freight, multiple robots and tools and assembly plants. These giga presses will die cast full body and white components much faster and with more efficiency than traditional methods. Exco feels that it is uniquely situation to meet the technological requirements to build moulds for these giga presses. Tesla is a leader in utilizing larger die cast machines, however, many other OEMs are looking into this process and press manufacturers are developing 6000, 8000 and even 12,000 ton machines. This trend has the potential to increase the market size significantly.

Exco believes that the American and Mexican markets represent a significant opportunity for it currently. As virtually the only non-captive tool shop in Mexico capable of working on large die cast tooling the Company is well positioned to participate in the country's growing third-party automotive die cast sector. While customers and competitors will surely join us in Mexico, we know from experience that it will take them several years to establish a credible presence and competitive threat. In the last couple of years within the United States approximately US\$400 million in investments in die cast foundries have been announced by two major die casters and in Mexico another US\$100 million has been announced.

The Casting group's sales are generated through customer requests to quote individual moulds, multiple moulds, repair and maintenance of moulds and spare parts used within larger mould products. The design, engineering and collaboration efforts for new orders can proceed for months prior to the issue of a purchase order and the orders may take 16-30 weeks for completion. There are often multiple engineering changes and modifications to the orders as samples and flow analysis is completed at various stages of production. Purchase orders can be issued for single

“prototype” moulds or for multiple tools supporting the life cycle of an engine or platform extending for up to 5 to 10 years.

**Castool**

The Company’s Castool division designs, manufactures and sells consumable tooling components and related capital equipment for light metal die cast machines and extrusion presses. Castool has evolved their systems to include less expensive, longer life, more energy efficient and safer products. Patent exist for many products and new patent applications are constantly being submitted with process and product improvements.

All these components relate to the mechanisms in die cast machines and extrusion presses that heat the light metal and deliver it in liquid or semi-solid form to the die or mould. Castool provides both production tooling and technical advice to leading extruders and die casters globally. Castool manufactures die ovens which heat dies to the appropriate temperature before inserting the dies into extrusion presses. Most of Castool’s products are now either thermally controlled or managed by PLC/computer systems. Castool believes it is the only company to provide single sourcing and undivided responsibility for these tooling systems. It also provides technical advice through direct contact, articles in trade journals and trade association conventions.

**Customers and the Market**

Castool not only services the same customer base as the Extrusion Technology and Casting Technology businesses but it also sells to other customers in the global market which the Extrusion Technology and Casting Technology businesses do not currently sell to. While Exco’s Extrusion and Casting groups focus on manufacturing and marketing dies and moulds that will make high quality parts, the Castool business focuses on making components and accessories that will increase the customers’ extrusion press and die-cast machine uptime (longer tooling life) and yields (less scrap and energy consumption). Since the 2009 global financial crisis, both industries have become much more aware of production inefficiencies. This is an ideal market climate for Castool since its tooling systems can offer customers an attractive return on capital invested in Castool products.

Both the extrusion and die casting industries are becoming increasingly competitive. Their customers are demanding products that are larger, more complex, and with more precise tolerances than ever before. The advanced technology of Castool products allows both extruders and die casters to respond to these needs.

The Castool group will benefit from the same trends as Exco’s Extrusion and Casting technology groups including increased use of aluminum parts in vehicles, the growth of the EV vehicle, larger die cast presses, and the environmental benefits of using aluminum over heavier products.

Castool has sales agents and/or sales representatives in most markets in the world managing customer relationships. Castool also presents technical papers at most international congresses and trade shows in the extrusion and die cast industries. Similar to the Extrusion Technologies group, purchase orders are received on a daily basis from Castool’s customers. Orders are typically processed and shipped by the plant to the customer based on geography or technical needs of the order. Order turnaround can range from a week (if consumable finished goods held in inventory) to 4-6 months for more complicated products that require specialization and design features.

**Extrusion and Casting Technology Summary Data**

Primary Markets	Products	Key Processes	Top Customers	Competitors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canada</li> <li>• USA</li> <li>• Mexico</li> <li>• Colombia</li> <li>• Brazil</li> <li>• Europe</li> <li>• Thailand</li> <li>• China</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• QR Containers</li> <li>• Die Ovens</li> <li>• Dummy Blocks and Stems</li> <li>• Thermal Controlled Shot Sleeves</li> <li>• Plunger rods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Machine processing including turning, drilling, milling, polishing, EDM</li> <li>• 5-axis Milling Machining</li> <li>• Heat Treatment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stellantis</li> <li>• General Motors Corporation</li> <li>• Ford Motor Company</li> <li>• Honda Motor Co., Inc.</li> <li>• Nemak</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Costamp Group SPA,</li> <li>• SAPP SpA</li> <li>• Heck+Becker GmbH &amp;Co.,</li> <li>• Aarkel Tool and Die Inc.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Korea</li> <li>• Japan</li> <li>• Indonesia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flat and Hollow extrusion dies and die rings (from 8 inch to 40 inch in diameter, ranging from 50 – 1000 pounds)</li> <li>• High Pressure Die Cast Moulds (several cubic feet to several hundred cubic feet from 10 to 75 tons) for Automotive parts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computer Aided Design and Computer aided Manufacturing (CAD/CAM)</li> <li>• Computer Numeric Control (CNC)</li> <li>• Harmonized Design and Programming</li> <li>• Additive Technologies</li> <li>• 3500 ton Aluminum and Magnesium Foundry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toyota Motor Co.</li> <li>• Martinrea,</li> <li>• Norsk</li> <li>• Hydro ASA,</li> <li>• Constellium</li> <li>• HAI Aluminum</li> <li>• Western Extruder</li> <li>• Extrudex</li> <li>• Alcoa</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delaware Dynamics LLC.</li> <li>• Strohwig Industries</li> <li>• SF Tooling Group GmbH,</li> <li>• GH Tool</li> <li>• Kinde and Co</li> <li>• Hitachi</li> <li>• Gemini Group</li> <li>• Phoenix International Spa</li> <li>• CO.M.P.ES Spa</li> <li>• Many small private companies and Extruder internal die shops</li> </ul>
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## AUTOMOTIVE SOLUTIONS

Exco operates four businesses in the Automotive Solutions segment. Polytech and Polydesign are leading, world-class providers of flexible restraint and storage solutions for the global automotive market. Neocon is the premier designer and manufacturer of trays and rigid cargo organizer products for OEMs. AFX supplies die cut leather sets for seating and most other interior trim applications as well as injection-moulded, hand-sewn and hand-wrapped interior components of all types. This segment represented 52% of Exco’s revenue in fiscal 2022.

Manufacturing Facilities	Countries	Employees	Sales
4	Canada USA Mexico Morocco	3,820	\$254 million

### **Raw Material Purchases**

Our key purchased raw materials for this segment include polypropylene yarn, resin, rubber, and leather. There are a number of factors that impact how and where we source our raw materials including price, quality, duties, tariffs, delivery times, warehousing and transportation costs. There are a number of local and off-shore suppliers we can use to ensure the best all-in raw materials for our production processes. Raw material prices fluctuate based on several macro and micro economic factors. Raw material prices increased consistently throughout fiscal 2022 for all major components used by the Automotive Solutions group. There is little flexibility in receiving price increases from customers on the existing production as contracts have fixed pricing for a number of years, however, new quotations for business incorporate these cost increases. Wherever possible, the Automotive Solutions group attempts to vertically integrate its material and components required in its finished goods to control material costs and quality.

### **Polytech and Polydesign**

Polytech and Polydesign have four principal products: 1) flexible storage systems, 2) flexible restraint systems, 3) plastic injection moulded consoles, gearshift boots and componentry and 4) other interior trim products such as gap-hiders. Polydesign has also added additional product lines which include the cutting and sewing of seat covers, headrests, instrument panels, sun visors and door panels.

Polypropylene yarn, computer-controlled braiders, weavers and knitters are used to manufacture the bungee, webbing and netting which are subsequently sewn into restraint and storage systems. These products are affixed to the vehicle interiors by plastic hardware which is injection moulded or by wire which is bent to exact dimensions. This vertical integration, i.e. manufacture of materials and components required in the end products, allows Polytech and Polydesign to control their material costs and quality.

Flexible storage systems are found in trunks, seat backs, door panels, sun visors, centre consoles and any area of a vehicle where convenient accessible storage can be provided. Flexible storage systems are designed as convenience products for the interior passenger compartment and trunks of vehicles. Often this product is sold with an injection moulded part which secures the net to an interior or trunk surface. The Company's capabilities have been applied to expanding into other interior trim parts which are not related to flexible storage systems such as gap-hiders, so-named as it encloses the gap between the steering wheel and instrument panel, covering the steering column.

Flexible restraint systems are designed and tested as safety restraining devices. They are positioned in the vehicle between the passenger compartment and cargo area, typically in sport utility vehicles, vans and station wagons. They prevent baggage from moving from the cargo area to the passenger compartment and becoming dangerous projectiles in a collision. Consoles and gearshift boots are typically injection moulded components but may also require cutting and sewing of fabric or leather to form the boot. These products must meet the same specifications identified above.

Polydesign has the same capabilities as Polytech and in addition, has the capability of manufacturing seat and headrest covers and leather wrapping steering wheels, instrument panels, and steering wheels. Headrest covers are made by cutting either fabric or leather and sewing the cut part into a final shape specified by the customer. Finally, Polydesign is engaged in the production of sun visor assemblies by cutting and sewing fabric and assembling them with metal and electronic components.

Polytech manufactures these products in North America. They are designed and engineered at Polytech's offices in Troy, Michigan, manufactured in Matamoros, Mexico and then mostly shipped to its warehouse in Brownsville Texas for pick-up by customers. The Matamoros facility is located in a free trade zone. Accordingly, raw material and equipment is shipped to Matamoros duty free, converted to finished product and shipped back to the US market duty free. A small portion of Polytech's products are sold to customers in Mexico.

Polydesign products are designed, engineered and manufactured at its facility in Tangier, Morocco. Products manufactured in Tangier, Morocco are shipped directly to Europe. Polydesign is in a free trade zone with the European Economic Union. Accordingly, products can be shipped duty-free to member countries.

### ***Customers and the Market***

Flexible storage systems were first introduced into the market in the mid-1980's. Polytech initially developed the netting for this market. Polytech and Polydesign's products can be found in hundreds of different automotive models on the roads today.

The primary customers for Polytech's products are the North American and many foreign automobile manufacturers ("OEMs") or the OEM's Tier 1 suppliers. Currently, Polytech supplies approximately 11 OEMs and dozens of Tier One suppliers throughout the world. The Company believes that it is the largest supplier in North America for flexible restraint and storage systems. The market is mature; however, sales could be impacted by reduced production of automobiles and trucks by our customers. Polytech also manufactures plastic injection moulded consoles, gear shift boots and gap-hiders. This product broadening further expands Polytech's automotive interior product line and potential market.

Polydesign was established to penetrate the European market. Prior to the establishment of Polydesign, the European market was supplied by Polytech from Mexico. Given the size of the potential market, warehousing, shipping and duty charges, Exco determined that a facility closer to the European market was necessary. Tangier, Morocco was chosen because of its proximity to Europe, its free trade agreement with the European Economic Community, the skills of its people, competitiveness of wage rates relative to Europe and the stability of its government. Exco believes that the size of the European market is as large as or larger than the North American market.

## **AFX Industries**

AFX has three principal products: 1) cutting leather and other interior trim material, 2) fabricating interior trim components and 3) plastic injection moulded interior trim and componentry. Cut leather and other interior trim material is used for seat cover, headrests, sun visors, steering wheels, shift and brake knobs, armrest console lids and instrument panels. Once cut, these pieces are either sold to third parties for further sewing and assembly or further sewn and assembled by AFX 'in house'. Plastic injection moulded interior trim componentry is a core capability of AFX. These injection moulded parts are used by AFX 'in house' to produce shift and brake knobs, console lids, sun visor, armrest and other interior trim substrates.

While these products are largely standard to the interior trim of light vehicles or trucks their aesthetic quality is very important to the carmaker's overall marketing effort. Consoles and gearshift boots are typically injection moulded components but may also require cutting and sewing of fabric or leather to form the boot.

These products are designed, engineered and manufactured at its production facility in Matamoros, Mexico and then either shipped to its warehouse in Brownsville Texas for pick up by customers or shipped directly to customers in Mexico. The Matamoros facility is located in a free trade zone. Accordingly, raw material and equipment is shipped to Matamoros duty free, converted to finished product and shipped back to the US market duty free. A portion of AFX's products are sold to customers in Mexico. The administrative and marketing offices of AFX are located in Port Huron, Michigan.

### ***Customers and the Market***

The primary customers for AFX's products are the Tier 1 suppliers to the North American and foreign OEMs. Therefore, AFX is a Tier II or, in some cases, a tier III supplier to the ultimate OEM customer. Currently, AFX supplies dozens of Tier I suppliers throughout the world. The Company believes that it is a significant supplier in North America for steering wheel wrapping and shift/bake boots and knobs. The market is mature; however, sales are impacted by production levels of automobiles and trucks. AFX also manufactures plastic injection moulded consoles and gear shift boots. This product broadening further expands AFX's automotive interior product line and potential market.

AFX also has a 50% interest in a joint venture with a European leather manufacturer. The joint venture has been in existence more than a decade. The joint venture, when deemed desirable by the two joint venture owners, quotes on North American automotive interior trim programs. When the joint venture is awarded a program, the European leather manufacturer supplies the joint venture the requisite leather and AFX is sourced by the joint venture to cut, sew and assemble the products.

## **Neocon**

Neocon manufactures and designs plastic thermoformed trays and trunk organizers for the interior compartment of automobiles. Neocon has two product categories: 1) cargo organizer systems and 2) flooring and protective systems. The cargo organizer system focuses on organization, protection and flexibility to divide space within the open cargo area of sport utility vehicles, vans and trucks, as well as open trunk spaces in cars.

The flooring and protective systems provide a custom cargo area fit, low rise retaining walls around the perimeter of the trays (for containing slush, snow, water or any other fluids/debris that may drop off cargo stored in the sedan trunk or SUV) and flexible and friction enhanced materials that are easy to clean.

Neocon experiments extensively with different gauges and blends of material in order to optimize the look and feel of the product and has expanded its product offering to include carpeted materials which consist of a carpeted fabric being laminated to a plastic sheet. Neocon has also developed an injection moulding process to affix OEM logos onto trays and floor mats with multiple colours.

Neocon's products are designed, engineered and produced at its full-service facility in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Product design and engineering use state of the art CAD systems and design software, which fully support solid



modeled parts and assemblies. The primary processing includes heavy gauge thermoforming with secondary assembly of injection and blow moulded components as well as other unique OEM compression moulded panels and assorted hardware.

**Customers and the Market**

Neocon was founded in 1993 in response to the growth of sport utility vehicles in the North American automotive market. Historically the primary customers for Neocon’s products are foreign domestic OEMs however Neocon has been making inroads with select North American OEMs and new EV manufacturers. Foreign domestic customers employ a relatively unique process for accessorizing their vehicles. The main feature involves segregating a predetermined portion of vehicles rolling off the assembly line into a holding area at the assembly plant or port-of-entry, in the case of importation of fully assembled vehicles. These segregated vehicles are then accessorized with Neocon, as well as other, components and products. In this way, vehicles are fully accessorized to the requirement of various trim levels required by the dealer network before they leave the assembly plant or port-of-entry. Accordingly, Neocon ships its products to OEM distribution centres which are typically in the northeastern US states. The customer then draws Neocon product from their distribution centres for delivery to its assembly plants or ports-of-entry. Some of Neocon’s North American and other OEM customers are incorporating Neocon products directly to their trim levels, there are still some customers that rely more heavily on their dealer ‘parts and service’ departments to accessorize vehicles. The trend however appears to be more direct orders.

Neocon’s product line complements the flexible storage products offered by Polytech and Polydesign and further strengthens the Automotive Solutions segment. The Company believes that the consumer trend to conveniently organize and store items in vehicles will result in further growth in the market. Neocon continues to gain new programs as it has, over the years, adapted its market strategy from SUVs to crossover utility vehicles (CUVs), hybrid vehicles, and EVs. Neocon’s products have achieved high market acceptance. High raw material content has been mitigated by developing plastic sheet blends that are lighter, stronger and less costly. These are mostly proprietary blends developed to meet ever changing consumer preferences. Neocon has improved its product offering to include alternate materials with a carpet finish as opposed to plastic commonly referred to as Neolux in order to be more suitable for luxury vehicles. In addition, it has begun selling bumper covers to its customer base. Bumper covers have a chrome finish and are mounted on the exterior of the vehicle atop the bumper cover.

**Automotive Solutions Summary Data**

Primary Markets	Products	Key Processes	Top Customers	Competitors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canada</li> <li>• USA</li> <li>• Mexico</li> <li>• Europe</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flexible storage and restraint systems</li> <li>• Plastic injection moulded consoles</li> <li>• Gearshift boots</li> <li>• Gap hidiers</li> <li>• Coverings for headrests, seat covers, sun visors, door panels, and instrument panels</li> <li>• Leather interior trim components</li> <li>• Thermoformed cargo and flooring protective systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computer controller braiders, weavers, and knitters</li> <li>• Plastic injection moulding</li> <li>• Leather cutting</li> <li>• Die cutting and perforation machines</li> <li>• Sewing machines</li> <li>• Computer Assisted Drawing (CAD) and design software.</li> <li>• Thermoforming</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stellantis</li> <li>• General Motors Corporation</li> <li>• Ford Motor Company</li> <li>• Honda Motor Co., Inc.</li> <li>• Rivian</li> <li>• Toyota Motor Co.</li> <li>• Faurecia Group</li> <li>• Nissan</li> <li>• Volvo</li> <li>• Adiant</li> <li>• Autoliv</li> <li>• International Automotive Components (IAC) Group</li> <li>• Lear</li> <li>• Yanfeng</li> <li>• Mobis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lear Corporation</li> <li>• Nolle-Pepin GmbH &amp; Co.</li> <li>• Eissman Group Automotive</li> <li>• AFS America LLC</li> <li>• Joubert Group</li> <li>• Thermoflex Corporation</li> <li>• Curtidos Treviño S.A. de C.V.</li> <li>• McMurray Plastics</li> </ul>

## DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STRUCTURE

The Company has one class of common shares. There is no limit on the number of common shares that may be issued. Each common share is entitled to one vote and there are no restrictions on voting rights other than those imposed by law. All shareholders participate equally, in proportion with their share ownership, in the dividends declared and paid by the Company and upon dissolution or wind up of the Company. There are no constraints imposed on the ownership of securities of Exco intended to ensure that Exco has a required level of Canadian ownership. Since 1987, the Company has had no preferred shares issued or outstanding.

### Dividends

The Company initiated paying quarterly cash dividends on its common shares in the amount of 1.25 cents per share in the second quarter of fiscal 2003. The following table sets forth the cash dividends paid and payable on our Common Shares in respect of each quarter for the last three years.

	Per share amount
Q2-2020 to Q1-2021	\$0.095
Q2-2021 to Q1-2022	\$0.100
Q2-2022 to Present	\$0.105

The Company expects to continue paying a quarterly dividend from our cash flow from operations; since 2008 the Company has consistently increased its dividend payment. The declaration and payment of dividends, including the dividend rate, is reviewed quarterly by our Board and is subject to the Board's discretion taking into account our cash flow, capital requirements, our financial condition and other factors as they consider relevant.

### Normal Course Issuer Bid

The Company received approval from the Toronto Stock Exchange for a normal course issuer bid for a 12-month period beginning February 18, 2022. The Company's Board of Directors authorized the purchase of up to 1,955,000 common shares representing approximately 5% of the Company's outstanding common shares. Through September 30, 2022, the Company repurchased 385,033 shares under this program.

The issuer bid share purchase history for each fiscal year over the previous three years is as follows:

Fiscal Year	Shares Purchased	\$ Per Share	\$ Paid
2020	1,258,666	\$7.31	\$9,203,263
2021	-	\$-	\$-
2022	385,033	\$8.88	\$3,420,984

### Market for Securities

The common shares of Exco are traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol XTC. The trading price and volume is indicated in the table below.

Month Ended	High (\$ per share)	Low (\$ per share)	Close (\$ per share)	Volume Traded
2022/09	8.75	7.6	7.70	360,154
2022/08	8.95	8.3	8.74	205,064
2022/07	8.85	7.75	8.74	358,095
2022/06	8.68	7.95	7.99	508,655
2022/05	9.12	8.17	8.46	1,176,114
2022/04	9.6	8.19	8.61	908,048
2022/03	9.64	8.88	9.59	2,827,249
2022/02	10.09	8.98	9.37	1,930,126
2022/01	10.57	9.18	9.83	615,761
2021/12	11.5	9.06	10.31	1,134,027
2021/11	10.02	9.06	9.1	657,767
2021/10	10.31	9.66	9.76	893,873

### Deferred Profit Sharing Plan

The Company has a Deferred Profit Sharing Plan (“DPSP”) for certain employees of the Company based on a distribution of the lesser of 1% of the eligible earnings of Canadian and US eligible employees of the Company or 5% of pre-tax profits to participants according to years of service and eligible earnings. The DPSP does not include senior divisional and corporate management. The full amount of an individual’s award is invested according to the individual’s election from an offered pool of managed investment products and, in Canada only, Company common shares. All funds and Company stock invested in the Canadian DPSP is purchased, held and managed by a third-party trustee. Purchases of Company stock, to the extent required by the Canadian DPSP, are made on the open market through the facilities on the Toronto Stock Exchange by the third-party trustee.

### MATERIAL CONTRACTS

There are no material contracts outside the normal course of business.

### DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Our Board consists of the following members:

Name and Municipality of Residence	Director Since	Principal Occupation
Edward H. Kernaghan (1) (2) (3) Ontario, Canada	January 2009	Executive Vice President, Kernaghan & Partners Ltd.
Darren M. Kirk Ontario, Canada	January 2019	President and Chief Executive Officer, Exco Technologies Limited
Robert B. Magee (1) (2) (3) Ontario, Canada	January 2010	Chairman, The Woodbridge Group
Colleen M. McMorrow (1) (2) (3) Ontario, Canada	January 2017	Corporate Director
Paul E. Riganelli (4) Ontario, Canada	January 2018	Executive Vice President, Exco Technologies Limited
Brian A. Robbins Ontario, Canada	January 1972	Executive Chairman of Exco Technologies Limited

### NOTES

1. Member of the Audit Committee
2. Member of the Human Resources and Compensation Committee
3. Member of the Governance & Nominating Committee
4. In January 2019 Mr. Riganelli was a director of ALC Bulgaria EOOD when it filed for voluntary insolvency.

All of our directors were elected to their present terms of office by our shareholders at our Annual Meeting of Shareholders held on January 26, 2022. The term of office for each director expires at the conclusion of the next annual meeting of our shareholders.

All of the directors have held the principal occupations identified above (or another position with the same employer) for not less than five years, except as follows:

- Ms. McMorrow was a partner at Ernst & Young LLP until her retirement in June 2016;

All of our directors, with the exception of Mr. Robbins, Mr. Kirk, and Mr. Riganelli, have been determined by our Board to be “independent directors” within the meaning of such term under applicable law.

Our executive officers consist of the following persons:

Name and Municipality of Residence	Principal Occupation
Jeff Blackburn Ontario, Canada	Vice President, General Manager, Casting Technologies (since November 2011)
Nick Gnatyuk Ontario, Canada	Vice President, General Manager, Extrusion Tooling Solutions Group (since January 2017)
Darren Kirk Ontario, Canada	President and Chief Executive Officer (since January 2019)
Matthew Posno Ontario, Canada	Vice President Finance and Chief Financial Officer (since May 2019)
Paul E. Riganelli Ontario, Canada	Executive Vice President (since January 2018)
Brian Robbins Ontario, Canada	Executive Chairman (since January 2019)
Paul Robbins Ontario, Canada	Vice President, General Manager, Castool Division (since 1984)
William Schroers Michigan, USA	President and Chief Executive Officer, Automotive Solutions Group (since 2000)

To the extent that our officers have not held the offices identified above for the last five years, they have held the following offices or positions with us and/or have had the following principal occupations during the last five years:

- Mr. Gnatyuk was General Manager of Extrusion Tooling Group until January 2017;
- Mr. Kirk was Executive Vice-President from November 2015 to January 2018 and Chief Operating Officer from January 2018 to January 2019 of Exco Technologies Limited;
- Prior to joining Exco Technologies Limited, Mr. Posno owned CFO Advisory and Support, was Chief Financial Officer at Zynik Capital Corporation January 2018 to September 2018, was Chief Financial Officer and General Manager Elby Bike Company and Chief Financial Officer BionX International Corporation from November 2016 to December 2017, and Chief Financial Officer at Inscape Corporation from March 2014 to July 2016.
- Mr. Riganelli was Chief Operating Officer from April 2013 to January 2018;
- Mr. Brian Robbins was President and Chief Executive Officer until January 2019.

As at December 6, 2022 the directors and officers of the Company as a group beneficially owned, directly or indirectly, or exercised control or direction over, approximately 54.1% of the common shares of the Company. All directors are residents of Canada.

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE COMPOSITION AND QUALIFICATIONS**

The Audit Committee is composed of Colleen McMorrow, Edward Kernaghan, and Robert Magee. The Committee is chaired by Ms. McMorrow. All members have been determined to be independent and financially literate by the Board of Directors.

Ms. McMorrow is a retired partner of Ernst & Young LLP where she was involved with auditing public companies over the course of her career. All other members of the Audit Committee are or have been CEO's or senior executives/directors of TSX listed public companies during their careers and as such are familiar with accounting principles applicable to the Company and are capable of assessing the general application of these principles in connection with accounting estimates, accruals, reserves and internal controls.

The Audit Committee has authority to pre-approve all non-audit services provided by the Company's external auditors. The Audit Committee Charter is attached hereto as Schedule A and should be referred to for a complete understanding of the role of the Audit Committee.

**Audit Fees** – The audit fees paid by the Company for the 2022 fiscal year are discussed in detail in the Management Information Circular at the section entitled 'BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED AT THE MEETING – APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR'.

## **RISK FACTORS**

The risk factors relating to the Company and its businesses are discussed in detail in the MD&A at the section entitled 'Risks and Uncertainties' in the 2022 Annual Report.

## **TRANSFER AGENT**

The Company's transfer agent since November 1, 2004 is TSX Trust Company, 301 – 100 Adelaide Street, West, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 4H1. Prior to that date the transfer agent was CIBC Mellon Trust Company.

## **LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

There are no legal proceedings against the Company or, to the knowledge of management, contemplated against the Company or its assets which either individually or in the aggregate exceed ten percent of the current assets of the Company.

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There is no existing or potential material conflict of interest between the Company and any of its subsidiaries or between any Company's director or officer and the Company or any of its subsidiaries.

## **INTEREST OF MANAGEMENT AND OTHERS IN MATERIAL TRANSACTIONS**

Other than described elsewhere in this Annual Information Form, there are no material interests, direct or indirect, of any of our directors or executive officers, any Shareholder that beneficially owns, or controls or directs (directly or indirectly), more than 10% of any class or series of our outstanding voting securities, or any associate or affiliate of any of the foregoing persons, in any transaction within the three most recently completed financial years or during the current financial year that has materially affected or is reasonably expected to materially affect us or any of our subsidiaries.

## **INTERESTS OF EXPERTS**

The Company's auditor is Ernst & Young LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants, located at Toronto, Ontario. Ernst & Young LLP have prepared an independent auditor's report dated November 29, 2022 in respect of the consolidated financial statements of the Company as at September 30, 2022 and September 30, 2021. Ernst & Young LLP has advised that they are independent with respect to the Company within the meaning of the Code of Professional Conduct of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Additional information, including directors' and officers' remuneration and the principal holders of Exco's securities and options to purchase securities is contained in the most recent information circular of Exco prepared in connection with the annual meeting of shareholders to be held on January 25, 2023. Additional financial information is provided in Exco's Financial Statements and MD&A. Also additional information is available on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

## SCHEDULE A

### AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

#### I. Purpose of Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is appointed by the Board of Directors to assist the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities in relation to the integrity of the Company's financial statements, the Company's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, the qualifications, independence and performance of the external auditor and the performance of the Company's internal audit function.

#### II. Audit Committee Composition and Meetings

Audit Committee members shall meet the applicable requirements of the *Business Corporations Act* (Ontario), Canadian securities regulatory authorities and the Toronto Stock Exchange. The Audit Committee shall comprise of three or more Directors determined by the Board, each of whom shall be outside Directors who are "independent" as such term is defined in NI 52-110 and unrelated, free from any relationship that would interfere with the exercise of his or her independent judgment. All members of the Committee shall be financially literate, as defined in NI 52-110.

Audit Committee members shall be directors of the Company and shall be appointed by the Board. If an Audit Committee Chair is not designated or present, the members of the Committee may designate a Chair by majority vote of the Committee membership.

The Committee shall meet at least four times annually, or more frequently as circumstances dictate. The Audit Committee Chair shall prepare and approve an agenda in advance of each meeting. At each meeting, the Committee should meet with the Chief Financial Officer, the external auditors (to the extent they are present), and as a committee to discuss any matters that the Committee or any of these groups believe should be discussed without any members of management present.

#### III. Audit Committee Responsibilities and Duties

The Audit Committee's primary duties and responsibilities are to:

- Provide oversight of the Company's financial reporting process and system of internal controls.
- Monitor the independence and performance of the Company's external auditors and oversee the internal audit plan and scope, and programs and independence.
- Provide an avenue of communication among the external auditors, management, and the Board of Directors.
- Report to the Board of Directors.

The Audit Committee has the authority to conduct any investigation appropriate to fulfilling its responsibilities, and it has direct access to the external auditors as well as anyone in the organization. The Audit committee has the ability to retain, at the Company's expense, subject to Board approval, which will not be unreasonably withheld, such legal, accounting, or other consultants or experts relating to specific and discrete matters which it reasonably deems necessary in the performance of its duties (including the authority to set and pay the compensation for any properly approved advisors employed by the Audit Committee).

## **Review Procedures**

1. Review and assess the adequacy of this Charter at least annually and submit any changes to the Charter to the Board of Directors for approval.
2. Review the Company's annual audited financial statements and financial disclosures, the external auditors' report thereon, management's discussion and analysis ("MD&A"), the financial disclosure in the annual earnings news releases and related documents prior to filing or distribution and recommend approval to the board. Review should include discussion with management and external auditors regarding material changes in or initial adoption of new accounting principles and practices and their impact, and critical accounting estimates and judgements underlying the financial statements presented by management .
3. Review with financial management the Company's quarterly financial statements and financial disclosures, MD&A, the financial disclosure in the interim earnings news releases and related documents prior to the release of earnings and/or the Company's quarterly financial statements prior to filing or distribution and recommend approval to the Board. Discuss any significant changes to the Company's accounting principles.
4. The Audit Committee must be satisfied that adequate procedures are in place for the preparation by management and the Committee's review of the Company's disclosure of other financial information extracted or derived from the Company's financial statements for inclusion in a prospectus or other securities offering documents.
5. Annually, in consultation with management and external auditors, consider the integrity and assess the adequacy of the Company's financial reporting processes and internal controls over financial reporting. Discuss significant financial risk exposures, including but not limited to cybersecurity, and the steps management has taken to monitor, control, and report such exposures. Review significant findings prepared by the external auditors together with management's responses.
6. Review the effectiveness of the overall process for identifying the principal risks affecting financial reporting and provide the Committee's view to the Board of Directors.

## **External Auditors**

7. The external auditors are ultimately accountable to the Audit Committee and the Board of Directors, as representatives of the shareholders. The Audit Committee shall oversee and review the independence of the external auditors, ensure the rotation of the lead audit partner as required by securities law, assess the performance of the auditors and annually recommend to the Board of Directors the appointment of the external auditors or approve any discharge of auditors when circumstances warrant.
8. Approve the fees and other significant compensation to be paid to external auditors.
9. Pre-approve all non-audit services provided by the external auditors to the Company and its subsidiaries, as services are required. The Audit Committee Chair may be delegated authority to pre-approve non-audit services from time to time. The decisions of the Audit Committee Chair to



whom this authority is delegated, must be presented to the full Committee at its next scheduled Committee meeting.

10. On an annual basis, the Committee will review and discuss with the external auditors all significant relationships they have with the Company that could impair the auditor's independence.
11. Review and approve the Company's hiring policies regarding former and present partners and employees of the Company's external auditors.
12. Review the external auditors' audit plan and discuss and approve audit scope, staffing, locations, reliance upon management, and general audit approach.
13. Prior to releasing the year – end earnings, discuss the results of the audit with the external auditors. Discuss certain matters required to be communicated to audit committees in accordance with the standards established by appropriate professional or regulatory standards.
14. Consider the external auditors' judgements about the quality and appropriateness of the Company's accounting principles as applied in the Company's financial reporting.

### **Internal Audit Function and Legal Compliance**

15. Review and approve management's decisions annually related to the need for and effectiveness of the internal audit function, review the summary plan and any material changes to the scope of the plan.
16. Discuss with management and the external auditors and internal legal counsel any litigation claims or other contingency that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

### **Dispute Resolution and Complaints Procedure**

17. Resolve any disagreements between the Company's management and external auditors regarding financial reporting.
18. Resolve any disputes relating to accounting, internal accounting controls or audit matters among corporate management.
19. The Audit Committee must establish a procedure for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal accounting controls, or auditing matters.
20. The Audit Committee must establish a procedure for the confidential, anonymous submission of concerns by employees of the Company regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.

### **Other Audit Committee Responsibilities**

21. Annually review and assess the effectiveness of the committee against the Charter and report the results of the assessment to the Board.

22. Disclose the Charter and other required information relating to the Audit Committee to shareholders as required by applicable Canadian securities laws.
23. Perform any other activities consistent with this Charter, the Company's by-laws, and governing law, at the Committee or the Board deems necessary or appropriate.
24. Maintain minutes of meetings and regularly report to the Board of Directors on significant results of the foregoing activities.
25. Review the qualifications and performance of the Company's financial management and succession planning.