

Press Release

**How Can Smart Shoe Box Manufacturers Achieve Better Product Performance?
KRAIBURG TPE's THERMOLAST® K Series Enables Durable and Innovative Designs**
Kuala Lumpur, September 2026
Page 1 of 5

KRAIBURG TPE Technology
(M) Sdn Bhd
Lot 1839 Jalan KP6 6
Kawasan Perindustrian Balakong
43300 Seri Kembangan, Selangor,
Malaysia

Phone +60 3 9545 6393

Info-asia@kraiburg-tpe.com
www.kraiburg-tpe.com

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Smart consumer products such as intelligent shoe storage systems are becoming increasingly popular as consumers seek more hygienic, convenient, and automated lifestyle solutions. For OEMs and product engineers, developing smart shoe boxes requires materials that can support multiple functional requirements, including durability, flexible design, reliable processing, soft-touch comfort, and long-term performance. Selecting the right material is essential to ensure components can withstand repeated use while maintaining premium aesthetics and user experience.

KRAIBURG TPE, a global manufacturer of thermoplastic elastomers and customized solutions presents the multifunctional [THERMOLAST® K Series](#) for applications in the automotive, consumer, and industrial sectors. The series fulfills the material performance requirements of smart consumer products and electronic lifestyle applications, including smart shoe boxes.

How does THERMOLAST® K support efficient processing and multi-material designs?

THERMOLAST® K Series features strong mechanical properties and is optimized for [extrusion processes](#), including film extrusion, ensuring consistent processing performance. It demonstrates strong adhesion to engineering plastics such as PC, ABS, PC/ABS, and POM, making it suitable for multi-component product designs and insert molding in smart product manufacturing, where rigid and soft components can be combined within a single product structure.

Media Contact

Marlen Sittner
Head of Digital Marketing
Team Corporate Communications
Phone: +49 8638 9810-272
marlen.sittner@kraiburg-tpe.com

Asia Pacific
Bridget Ngang
Marketing Manager Asia Pacific
Phone: +603 9545 6301
bridget.ngang@kraiburg-tpe.com

Press Release

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Kuala Lumpur, September 2026
Page 2 of 5

Superior comfort and durability

THERMOLAST® K Series renders a controlled level of emissions and odor, enabling manufacturers to develop products with improved user comfort and indoor suitability. Originally developed for demanding automotive interior applications, the material also provides excellent UV resistance and temperature stability up to 90 °C, making long-term product durability possible.

Design flexibility guaranteed

THERMOLAST® K Series enhances the smart shoe box's overall design in terms of visual appeal and tactile quality, with the material's soft-touch surface, making it suitable for applications requiring a comfortable grip and safe handling. Available in black color, the material lends a premium product finish. With these well-rounded features, the series is ideal for applications ranging from hand tools and power tool handles; functional and design elements such as push buttons and switches; to bumpers, door sills, grommets, thumb wheels, car mats, seals, and other automotive interior components.

Safe and circular material advantage

THERMOLAST® K Series contains no latex, PVC, phthalates, or heavy metals, ensuring safety in every use. Designed for in-process recycling, the specialized compounds provide an advantage in sustainable and resource-efficient manufacturing processes.

Sustainability from the get-go

At KRAIBURG TPE, [sustainability](#) drives our innovation. Our portfolio includes bio-based TPEs and compounds with post-consumer (PCR) and post-industrial (PIR) recycled content. Selected TPEs are certified under GRS and

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Kuala Lumpur, September 2026
Page 3 of 5

ISCC PLUS. We also provide Product Carbon Footprint (PCF) data upon request to support sustainability decisions.

We proudly earned the EcoVadis Gold Medal in 2025 and are committed to the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi), aligning our goals with global climate action.

From reducing emissions to increasing circularity, our sustainable TPEs deliver reliable performance and are available worldwide to support your applications while advancing your sustainability goals.

Get in touch today to learn how KRAIBURG TPE can support your sustainability and product development journey.

Discover More with TPE: With increasing consumer expectations for smart, hygienic, and premium lifestyle products, manufacturers are seeking material solutions that support both functional performance and modern product design. KRAIBURG TPE's THERMOLAST® K Series helps manufacturers develop innovative applications such as [smartwatch straps](#), [shoe string adjusters](#) and so forth by combining soft-touch comfort, engineering plastic adhesion, durability, and efficient processability in a single material solution.

Disclaimer: *The applications mentioned are illustrative of material capabilities only. Final product suitability and regulatory compliance must be assessed and validated by the customer.*

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Page 4 of 5



(Photo: © 2026 KRAIBURG TPE)

For high-resolution photography, please contact Bridget Ngang
(bridget.ngang@kraiburg-tpe.com , +6 03 9545 6301).

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Press Release

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Kuala Lumpur, September 2026

Page 5 of 5



KRAIBURG TPE (www.kraiburg-tpe.com) is a global manufacturer of custom thermoplastic elastomers. KRAIBURG TPE was founded in 2001 as an independent business unit of the KRAIBURG Group and is now the industry's competence leader in the field of TPE compounds. The company's goal is to provide safe, reliable and sustainable products for customer applications. With more than 718 employees worldwide and production sites in Germany, the USA and Malaysia, the company offers a large product portfolio for applications in the automotive, industrial and consumer goods industries, as well as for the strictly regulated medical sector. The established THERMOLAST®, COPEC®, HIPEX® and For Tec E® product lines are processed by injection molding or extrusion and offer manufacturers numerous advantages not only in processing but also in product design. KRAIBURG TPE is characterized by its innovative strength, global customer orientation, customized product solutions and reliable service. The company is ISO 50001 certified at its headquarters in Germany and holds ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 certifications at all its sites worldwide.