

4th - Annual  
SPE AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES  
CONFERENCE

# Welcome

## FROM 2004 ACCE CHAIR

Welcome to our 4th annual SPE Automotive Composites Conference and Exposition (SPE ACCE). Over the last 4 years, we have seen an increasing amount of interest and usage of composite materials and processes in our industry. In fact, at last year's SPE Automotive Innovation Award's program, 4 of the 7 category winners presented papers on their applications at the 2003 SPE ACCE conference. Indeed, composites have become an important OEM material of choice for many applications.



What is new about this year's conference?  
A lot! How about:

- The increased use of carbon-fiber composites by OEMs on a global basis;
- More demanding foreign competition;
- New improvements in thermoset and thermoplastic composites;
- An organized approach to thermoplastic composites in Europe (EATC);
- Recycled composites in automotive applications;
- New enabling technologies for composites – paint films, adhesives, tooling, and processes.



You will learn about these topics and much more as well as having an opportunity to meet the people who made them possible.

SPE has a prime goal – educating its members and the plastics industry in general. A lot of people have gone to great lengths to inform you about their technologies, accomplishments, and how to solve mass, performance, and cost issues on various applications. To these technology and business leaders, we owe a great deal. We also owe a great deal to the SPE volunteers who put this program together. To the members of the Automotive and Composites Divisions of SPE, I personally want to thank you for a job well done.

We want to make your attendance and participation a continuing experience. We will make available speaker and presenter information should you want to follow up on any topic of interest. Also, feel free to contact any of our organizing committee to discuss any assistance we may be able to provide.

Once again, thank you for your participation. We look forward to seeing you at future SPE events.

*Frederick S. Deans*  
2004 SPE Automotive Composites Conference Chair