

Welcome

WELCOME FROM THE 2005 ACCE CHAIR

Welcome to the 5th Automotive Composites Conference and Exhibition. The Automotive and Composites Divisions of the Society of Plastics Engineers have teamed up again to provide you with a program that highlights a variety of technologies used in automotive composites. The title of this year's conference is **"Composites: Providing Global Vehicle Solutions."** This theme was selected to remind all of us that composites are providing real engineering solutions in the global transportation industry every day. The use of composites solutions on passenger cars, light trucks, and mass-transit applications has increased dramatically over the last few years, reaching a new technology breakthrough with the realization of hybrid solutions that could not be done with composites or metals on their own.



SPE has designed this program to offer you the best automotive composites conference in the world, featuring a program that is driven from real-world solutions.

What's new about this year's conference?

- ~ It will last 3 days to provide extra time for papers, keynote talks, panel discussions, and networking.
- ~ The successful OEM panel discussion is back. An additional panel discussion will target the growing activity associated with specialty vehicles.
- ~ A session on aesthetics is designed to provide insight into film technologies, in-mold decoration, and Class-A parts.
- ~ Biocomposites and natural-fiber composites will be highlighted.

Other sessions for this year's conference include:

- ~ New Composite Materials,
- ~ New Composite Processes,
- ~ New Composite Applications,
- ~ Enabling Technologies for Composites,
- ~ Structural Composite Applications,
- ~ Hybrid Technologies,
- ~ Nanocomposites, and
- ~ Advances in Long-Fiber Reinforced Thermoplastics (LFT or LFRT).

Keynote speakers will provide additional real-world experience in the area of crash structures, composite car development, protecting intellectual property, technologies for exterior parts, innovations and their market introduction, as well as an overview of the composites industry.

This year's conference once again will have a broad offering of exhibits from industry leaders in North America, Europe, and Asia. You will have the opportunity to talk with all of them, one-on-one. Don't miss Tuesday evening's cocktail reception for networking.

This conference would not be possible without the exceptional support provided by our sponsors, exhibitors, and speakers. To all of them, we owe a great deal. A special thanks goes to all the volunteers who helped to put this program together. I personally want to thank you for a job well done.

We appreciate your participation and wish you a successful conference. Feel free to contact any one of our committee members for assistance, feedback for improvement, or any other question you might have.

Best regards,

Klaus F. Gleich

2005 SPE Automotive Composites Conference Chair
Johns Manville

