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Contact:

Klaus Gleich  
SPE Auto. Composites Conf. Chair  
SPE Composites Div. Chair-Elect  
Johns Manville.  
Phone: +1.720.934.0758  
eMail: [gleichk@jm.com](mailto:gleichk@jm.com)

or

Peggy Malnati  
SPE Auto. Composites Conf. Publicity Chair  
SPE Auto. Div. Communications Chair  
Malnati and Associates  
+1.248.592.0765  
[p.malnati@sbcglobal.net](mailto:p.malnati@sbcglobal.net)

***SPE<sup>®</sup> AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES CONFERENCE TO FEATURE TWO  
PANEL DISCUSSIONS, SEVEN KEYNOTE ADDRESSES***

***Expanded Conference Offers Greater Exhibit Space, More Panel Discussions,  
Keynote Addresses, & Papers***

**TROY (DETROIT), MICH.** – Taking advantage of the extra day scheduled for this year's SPE<sup>®</sup> Automotive Composites Conference & Exposition (ACCE), the organizing committee has expanded panel discussions and is offering more keynote addresses. The panel discussions provide an opportunity to increase audience involvement and customize the experience of show attendees and sponsors, since all who attend will be able to submit questions for the panelists. Adding more keynote speakers helps provide a broader vision of where the composites industry is going and why development is so different in various geographies.

The first panel discussion – *Composites in the Specialty Vehicle Segment* – will take place Monday, September 12. A panel of industry experts and manufacturers of lower volume, high-performance, and niche vehicles will discuss the needs of their businesses and how composites help them achieve those ends.

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Says Past-ACCE Conference Chairman, Fred Deans, Azdel, Inc., the moderator of this panel discussion, "In this timely topic, we'll cover subjects like low-cost tooling; high-performance, lightweight materials; fast-to-market application development; and trends shaping the specialty-vehicle market. Attendees will be asked to participate in a Q&A session with panel experts during the latter part of the discussion, plus they can submit questions ahead of time using one of our suggestion boxes, which will be placed in several prominent locations throughout the conference facility."

A second panel discussion on Wednesday, September 14 – *Future of Automotive Composites* – is expected to be a major attraction of this year's show. At the 2004 conference, this panel discussion was extremely well received and considered to be very informative by attendees. The 2005 panel promises to be just as interesting. This year's panelists will include key decision-making executives from global automakers and Tier 1 suppliers.

According to ACCE Conference Co-Chair, Dale Brosius, Brosius Management Consultants, who will moderate the panel discussion again this year, "We're once again looking for a lively and interesting conversation about the future of composites in passenger vehicles. Questions for panelists will include those formulated by our ACCE planning committee, augmented by submissions from attendees during the first two days of the conference. We plan to specifically cover topics such as technical trends, the role of mass reduction and investment costs in material decisions, inter-materials competition, the health of the supply base, and future technical needs. Finally, the panel will explore opportunities as well as challenges for composites in automotive construction. As it was in 2004, we anticipate that the perspectives of the OEMs will be quite diverse, depending on each automakers particular situation. Attending this panel discussion will provide a unique experience to hear – directly from the OEM community – where composites fit into their future plans. It should be a must-see for anyone involved in composites on the supply side of this industry."

To encourage all attendees to attend both panel discussions, no concurrent technical sessions will be scheduled during the times the panel discussions are running, and both panel discussions will be held in the large auditorium at the Michigan State University Management Education Center in Troy, Mich.

In addition to panel discussions, the ACCE planning committee has identified seven keynote speakers for early-morning and after-lunch timeslots during the conference. The following speakers and topics have been confirmed:

- Richard Morrison, president and CEO of Molded Fiber Glass Companies and past-president of the American Composites Manufacturers Association (ACMA) – *Challenges & Opportunities Facing the Composites & Transportation Industries*;
- Dr. Frank Henning, director of Polymer Engineering at Fraunhofer ICT – *Sustainability by Innovation: Paving a Road for the Future Composites Industry*;
- Peter Stahl, technology manager – Global Glazing / Body Panels, GE Advanced Materials - Plastics – *HPPC – New Technologies For Exterior Applications*;
- Bill Abbatt, Esq., Brooks Kushman P.C. – *Strategic Management of Intellectual Property*;

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- Dr. Larry Drzal, director - Composite Materials & Structures Center, Michigan State University – *Trends in Biocomposites & Nanocomposites*;
- Dave Marler, executive engineer – Vehicle CAE, Lotus Engineering / Jacob Composites GmbH – *Moulding the Future of Composite Crash Structures*; and
- Matt Zaluzec, manager – Materials Research & Advanced Engineering, Ford Motor Company – *Design & Manufacturing of the 2005 Ford GT Super Car*.

The technical program for the conference is also proceeding well. Approximately 50 papers are being peer reviewed and will shortly be assigned to 1 of 10 planned technical tracks, including:

- Advances in Processing Technologies,
- Aesthetics / Finishing,
- Enabling Technologies,
- Hybrid Composites,
- LFT Process / Materials,
- Nanocomposites & Biocomposites,
- Natural Fibers,
- New Applications,
- New Materials, and
- Structural Applications.

Several categories have been added since the conference was first announced this year based on the topics of abstracts and papers being submitted. These include Aesthetics & Finishing and the addition of Biocomposites to the Nanocomposites category.

The Sponsorship Committee is also busy helping sponsors find the best package to meet their marketing needs. The following companies, organizations, or media are helping underwrite costs for the 2005 ACCE show:

- AOC, LLC – See them at <http://www.aoc-resins.com/us/>
- American Plastics Council – Automotive Learning Center – See them at [http://www.plastics-car.com/s\\_plasticscar/](http://www.plastics-car.com/s_plasticscar/)
- Azdel, Inc. – See them at <http://www.azdel.com/>
- Automotive Composites Alliance (See them at <http://www.autocomposites.org/autocomposites/>) of the American Composites Manufacturers Association (ACMA) – See them at <http://www.acmanet.org/index.cfm>
- Bayer Polymers – See them at [http://www.bayer.com/subgroups/bayer\\_materialscience/page1313.htm](http://www.bayer.com/subgroups/bayer_materialscience/page1313.htm)
- Bulk Molding Compounds, Inc. (BMCI) – See them at <http://www.rodgersengineering.com/profile.html>
- CA Lawton Co. – See them at <http://www.calawton.com/>
- Chisso America, Inc.– See them at <http://www.chisso.co.jp/english/index.html>
- Composites Manufacturing (CM) Magazine – See them at <http://www.cmmagazine.org/cm/index.cfm>
- Composites News – See them at [www.compositesnews.com](http://www.compositesnews.com)

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- Composite Products Inc. – See them at <http://www.compositeproducts.com/>
- Composites Technology & High-Performance Composites Magazines – See them at <http://www.compositesworld.com/ct/>
- Continental Structural Plastics (CSP) – See them at <http://www.cspplastics.com/csp/Homex.html>
- Dieffenbacher NA – See them at <http://www.dieffenbacher.de/flash.html>
- DuPont Automotive – See them at <http://www.automotive.dupont.com/en/index.html>
- Jet Moulding – See them at <http://www.jetmoulding.com/>
- Johns Manville – See them at <http://www.jm.com/>
- Krauss-Maffei – See them at <http://www.krauss-maffei.de/k/english/>
- LNP Engineering Plastics See them at <http://www.lnp.com/LNP/index.html>
- Nida-Core – See them at <http://www.nida-core.com/>
- Polywheels Manufacturing – See them at <http://www.polywheels.com/>
- Paragon Die & Engineering – See them at <http://www.paragondie.com/>
- Quadrant Plastic Composites – See them at <http://www.quadrantcomposites.com/English/idqpc001.asp>
- Sparta Composites – See them at <http://www.composites.sparta.com/flashsplash.php>
- SP Systems – See them at [http://www.spsystems.com/home\\_flash.php](http://www.spsystems.com/home_flash.php)
- Ticona – See them at [www.ticona.com](http://www.ticona.com)
- Total Industries – See them at <http://www.totalindustries.com/>
- Williams-White – See them at <http://www.williamswhite.com/>

According to Sponsorship Chairman, Tim Simko, Polywheels Manufacturing, Ltd., “We’re excited to be ahead of last year’s schedule in terms of signing up sponsors for our show. We’ve doubled our exhibit space this year, so we’re no longer in the space-constrained situation we were in our first four years. We hope that means we’ll pick up new sponsors and sponsors who have previously not exhibited. And we have many different types of packages still available.”

Registration forms, a conference flyer, information on discounted hotel rooms, and other materials can be found on the organization’s website at <http://www.speautomotive.com/comp.htm>.

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The mission of SPE is to promote scientific and engineering knowledge relating to plastics. SPE's Automotive and Composites Divisions work to advance plastics and plastic-based composites technologies worldwide and to educate industry, academia, and the public about these advances. Both divisions are dedicated to educating, promoting, recognizing, and communicating technical accomplishments for all phases of plastics and plastic based-composite developments, including applications, materials, processing, equipment, tooling, design, and development.

For more information about the SPE Automotive Composites Conference, visit the Composites' Division website at [www.4spe.org/communities/divisions/d39.php](http://www.4spe.org/communities/divisions/d39.php), or the Automotive Division's website at [www.speautomotive.com](http://www.speautomotive.com), or contact the group at +1.248.244.8993, or write SPE Automotive Division, 1800 Crooks Road, Suite A, Troy, MI 48084, USA.

For more information on the Society of Plastics Engineers International or other SPE events, visit the SPE website at [www.4spe.org](http://www.4spe.org), or call +1.203.775.0471.

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