



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (11/11/05)**  
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## **GM'S DAVE HILL TO RECEIVE FIRST CHIEF ENGINEER AWARD AT SPE<sup>®</sup> AUTOMOTIVE DIVISION'S INNOVATION AWARDS GALA**

***Long-Time Corvette Chief Engineer to Retire at Year's End, Will be Honored for  
Leadership in Advancing Polymeric Materials on Passenger Vehicles***

**TROY (DETROIT), MICH.** – During its 35<sup>th</sup>-anniversary *Innovation Awards Gala* on November 16, the Automotive Division of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE<sup>®</sup>) will award Dave Hill of General Motors Corp. (GM) with its first *Chief Engineer Award*. Hill, who retires at year's end after 41 years of service, is currently vehicle chief engineer (VCE) of the Chevrolet Corvette and vehicle line executive (VLE) of Performance Cars at GM. He is only the third chief engineer to lead Corvette in the platform's 53-year history, a position he has held since 1993.

The *Chief Engineer Award* is the newest executive accolade developed by SPE's Automotive Division to recognize exceptional leadership among chief engineers working at global automakers. The award recognizes a chief engineer who:

- Has exhibited outstanding leadership in bringing vehicles to market that incorporate polymeric materials;
- Has worked to increase polymeric materials on vehicles throughout his/her career;

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*GM's Hill to Receive First Chief Engineer Award at SPE Innovation Awards Gala*  
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- Has led one or more vehicle lines or generations consistently to success in the marketplace, making improvements and refinements that created sustained brand enthusiasm;
- Is viewed by peers as an outstanding leader, exceeding performance expectations while setting the pace for others to follow;
- Is recognized in automotive circles as an outstanding leader and an auto enthusiast; and
- Has been a strong contributor and supporter of activities sponsored by the SPE Automotive Division.

According to *Innovation Awards Gala* Program Chair, Suzanne Cole, president, Cole & Associates, "Dave Hill is the ideal candidate to receive our first *Chief Engineer Award*. His long-time leadership at Corvette – a vehicle that has featured plastic body panels from day one, and has pioneered the use of many new polymeric materials – quickly brought his name to the top of our list when we decided to create this award. Dave also is a true car enthusiast and frequently speaks to Corvette clubs around the country. Furthermore, as only the third chief engineer at Corvette in more than half-a-century, he has had a major role refining and improving that vehicle, and creating sustained brand awareness and excitement."

Hill's career with GM began when he joined the Cadillac Motor Car Division in 1964. He moved through the organization in a variety of engineering positions, and he was named an executive in 1979. In 1982, Hill was named chief engineer of the Cadillac Allante. Following the introduction of the Northstar engine in 1992, Hill assumed chief engineer responsibilities for the Cadillac Deville and Concours. In 1995, Hill was named vehicle line executive of Performance Cars and led the development of the fifth-generation Corvette and the introduction of the Cadillac XLR. Last year, Hill launched the sixth-generation Corvette followed by the introduction of the new 505 bhp Corvette Z06 for 2006.

Hill holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Michigan Technological University and a master's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Michigan.

Prior to the start of the *Innovation Awards Gala*, Hill, along with Tom Edson, director – Applied Material and Manufacturing Technology, Advanced Vehicle Engineering at DaimlerChrysler and this year's winner of SPE's *Executive Leadership Award*, and Mr. Shigeki Suzuki, general manager of the Materials Engineering Division of Toyota Motor Corporation in Japan and this year's SPE *Lifetime Achievement Award* winner, will all be honored at a VIP cocktail reception reserved for program sponsors and senior-level automotive executives. Last year, several supplier executives attending the reception called it "One of the absolute best networking opportunities in town."

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SPE's *Innovation Awards Gala* is the largest competition of its kind in the world. Dozens of teams made up of OEMs, tier suppliers, and polymer producers submit nominations describing their part, system, or complete vehicle module and why it merits the claim as *Year's Most Innovative Use of Plastics*. This annual event – unofficially known as the Academy Awards® of the plastics and automotive industries – typically draws more than 700 OEM engineers, automotive and plastics industry executives, and media. As is customary, funds raised from this event will be used to support SPE educational efforts and technical seminars, which help to secure the role of plastics in the advancement of the automobile.

The mission of SPE International is to promote scientific and engineering knowledge relating to plastics worldwide and to educate industry, academia, and the public about these advances. SPE's Automotive Division is active in educating, promoting, recognizing, and communicating technical accomplishments for all phases of plastics and plastic based-composite developments in the global transportation industry. Topic areas include applications, materials, processing, equipment, tooling, design, and development.

For more information about the SPE *Innovation Awards Gala*, visit the SPE 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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***Attn. Editors:*** For high-resolution JPG photos of Mr. Hill, please e-mail us at [p.malnati@sbcglobal.net](mailto:p.malnati@sbcglobal.net) and request a copy.

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