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## ***SPE® ISSUES UPDATE ON AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION PLANNING EFFORTS***

### ***6<sup>th</sup>-Annual ACCE Conference Sports New Features to Provide More Value for Attendees, Exhibitors, Sponsors, Speakers, & Media***

**TROY (DETROIT), MICH.** – The 6<sup>th</sup>-annual **SPE® Automotive Composites Conference & Exhibition** (ACCE) – sponsored jointly by the SPE Automotive & Composites Divisions – provides an environment dedicated solely to discussion and networking about advances in the automotive composites industry. To that end, a number of changes have been made to help ensure time spent at this year's event provides even more value for attendees, exhibitors, sponsors, speakers, and media. Held September 12-14, 2006 at the MSU Management Education Center in Troy, Michigan, U.S.A., the conference has become known as a must-attend event for the North American automotive composites industry, although it also draws exhibitors, speakers, and attendees from Europe, the Middle East, and Asia / Pacific.

The changes were announced by Dale Brosius, '06 ACCE conference chair, as well as executive director and chief-operating officer for Australian-based QuickStep Technologies Pty. Ltd. Brosius has been the conference vice -chair for the past 2 years. He replaced the previous '06 conference chair, Terry Seagrave of Bayer MaterialsScience who stepped down last month. Dr. Frank Henning of the Fraunhofer Institut Chemische Technologie (ICT) in Germany is the new conference vice-chair.

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Changes that have been made to the 2006 ACCE program include:

- **More Panel Discussions** – Panel discussions are well attended at the ACCE show, so an additional one has been added this year. Each day's sessions will close with a panel.
  - TUESDAY: *The Growth of Thermoset Composites – Benefits & Challenges*
  - WEDNESDAY: *Integration of Composites into OEM Vehicle Operations*
  - THURSDAY: *The Future of Automotive Composites*
- **More Keynote Addresses** – To help attendees gain a broader view of automotive composites or learn about emerging technologies and trends, 8 keynote speakers will address this year's event. The exciting lineup and tentative presentation titles for this year's event include:
  - TUESDAY:
    - *Plastics are for Cars After All* – Dr. Michael Fisher, senior director - Technology, American Plastics Council
    - *Potential & Benefits: India Sourcing, An Automotive Industry Perspective* – Avenash Salelkar, director, Sourcing & Manufacturing Services Practice, TATA Consulting
    - *New Developments in SMC* – Dr. Jeff Helms, manager, Paint Material D&R, Ford Motor Company
  - WEDNESDAY:
    - *Intellectual Property Protection* – William Abbatt, Esq., senior attorney / shareholder, Brooks Kushman P.C.
    - *Construction of the McLaren Mercedes SLR Supercar* – Dr. Rob Backhouse, senior composite engineer – Body Structures, McLaren Automotive
    - *Opportunities for Automotive Composites* – Rogelio Sullivan, team leader, Materials Technologies Group, FreedomCAR Project, Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewables, U.S. Department of Energy

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- THURSDAY:
  - *Carbon-Fiber-Based Composites* – Nobuya Kawamura, group manager, Organic Material Department, Material Engineering Division, Toyota Motor Corporation
  - *Advanced Composites use on the Boeing 787 Dreamliner* – Dr. Jim Griffing, associate technical fellow, Materials & Process Technology, Boeing
- **Return of SMC** – After several years of low-visibility at ACCE, the SMC segment is back in force for this year's conference. Tuesday will feature an all-day session of presentations on advancements in SMC materials, technologies, and applications. The session will end with a panel discussion on thermoset composites and a keynote address by Dr. Jeff Helms, Ford Motor Company, on *New Developments in SMC*.
- **A Second Networking Reception** – The ACCE's annual evening cocktail reception has established itself as a great place to network, allowing speakers, exhibitors, sponsors, media, and attendees to meet and talk face-to-face. This year a second cocktail reception, sponsored by GE Plastics, has been added to increase networking opportunities.
- **More Exhibit Space** – One of the perennial problems the organizing committee has had is finding sufficient space for all the organizations wishing to exhibit at the ACCE conference. This year more exhibit space has been set aside than ever before and more sponsors and exhibitors have agreed to help support the conference. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will launch the exhibition area on Tuesday morning. Current sponsors and exhibitors include:
  - Advanced Materials & Processes Magazine ([www.asminternational.org/Template.cfm?section=Magazines](http://www.asminternational.org/Template.cfm?section=Magazines))
  - AirTech International ([www.airtechonline.com](http://www.airtechonline.com))
  - American Composites Manufacturers Association ([www.acmanet.org](http://www.acmanet.org))
  - American Plastics Council ([www.americanplasticscouncil.org](http://www.americanplasticscouncil.org))
  - AOC LLC ([www.aoc-resins.com/us/](http://www.aoc-resins.com/us/))
  - Ashland Chemical Company ([www.ashchem.com](http://www.ashchem.com))

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- ASM International ([www.asminternationa.org](http://www.asminternationa.org))
- Automotive Design & Production Magazine ([www.autofieldguide.com](http://www.autofieldguide.com))
- Azdel, Inc. ([www.azdel.com](http://www.azdel.com))
- Bayer MaterialsScience LLC  
([www.bayermaterialscience.com/internet/global\\_portal/cms.nsf/id/Home\\_en](http://www.bayermaterialscience.com/internet/global_portal/cms.nsf/id/Home_en))
- Bulk Molding Compounds, Inc. ([www.bulkmolding.com](http://www.bulkmolding.com))
- COMUSA LLC, a North American Chisso Group Company
- CM Magazine ([www.acmanet.org/CM/index.cfm](http://www.acmanet.org/CM/index.cfm))
- Composites News and the Composites News Supersite  
([www.compositesnews.com](http://www.compositesnews.com))
- Composites Technology Magazine ([www.compositesworld.com/ct/](http://www.compositesworld.com/ct/))
- Coperion ([www.coperion.com](http://www.coperion.com))
- Crane Composites ([www.cranecomposites.com/news.asp](http://www.cranecomposites.com/news.asp))
- Dieffenbacher ([www.dieffenbacher.de/flash.html](http://www.dieffenbacher.de/flash.html))
- DuPont Automotive ([www2.dupont.com/Automotive/en\\_US/](http://www2.dupont.com/Automotive/en_US/))
- GE Plastics ([www.ge.com/en/company/businesses/gecp.htm](http://www.ge.com/en/company/businesses/gecp.htm))
- High-Performance Composites Magazine ([www.compositesworld.com/hpc/](http://www.compositesworld.com/hpc/))
- Injection Molding Magazine ([www.immnet.com](http://www.immnet.com))
- Johns Manville Corporation ([www.jm.com](http://www.jm.com))
- Meridian Automotive Systems ([www.meridianautosystems.com/001/](http://www.meridianautosystems.com/001/))
- Modern Plastics Worldwide Magazine ([www.modplas.com](http://www.modplas.com))
- Molded Fiber Glass Companies (MFG) ([www.moldedfiberglass.com](http://www.moldedfiberglass.com))
- Multimatic Inc. ([www.multimatic.com/index.shtml](http://www.multimatic.com/index.shtml))
- Nida-Core Corporation ([www.nida-core.com](http://www.nida-core.com))
- NYCO ([www.nycominerals.com](http://www.nycominerals.com))

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- OC™ Automotive ([www.ownscorning.com/automotive](http://www.ownscorning.com/automotive))
- Plastics Machinery & Auxiliaries Magazine ([www.pma-magazine.com](http://www.pma-magazine.com))
- Plastics Technology Magazine ([www.ptonline.com](http://www.ptonline.com))
- Polystrand / Composites One ([www.polystrand.com](http://www.polystrand.com) and [www.compositesone.com](http://www.compositesone.com))
- Polywheels Manufacturing Ltd. ([www.polywheels.com](http://www.polywheels.com))
- Quadrant Plastic Composites ([www.quadrantcomposites.com](http://www.quadrantcomposites.com))
- Reichhold Chemicals ([www.reichhold.com](http://www.reichhold.com))
- Reinforced Plastics Magazine ([www.reinforcedplastics.com](http://www.reinforcedplastics.com))
- RTP Company ([www.rtpcompany.com](http://www.rtpcompany.com))
- Sparta Composites ([www.composites.sparta.com/flashsplash.php](http://www.composites.sparta.com/flashsplash.php))
- SP Systems ([www2.qurit.com/index\\_en.html](http://www2.qurit.com/index_en.html))
- Thermal Wave Imaging, Inc. ([www.thermalwave.com](http://www.thermalwave.com))
- ThyssenKrupp Budd ([www.buddcompany.com](http://www.buddcompany.com))
- Ticona Engineering Polymers ([www.ticona.com](http://www.ticona.com))
- Total Industries ([www.totalindustries.com](http://www.totalindustries.com))
- Williams, White & Company ([www.williamswhite.com](http://www.williamswhite.com))

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- **Automotive Composites – A Design & Manufacturing Guide** – Updated for the first time in nearly a decade, Ray Publishing, Inc. – publisher of *Composites Technology* and *High-Performance Composites* magazines and a long-time sponsor of the ACCE – is providing each conference attendee with the second edition of its well-known and award-winning guide. With a retail value of \$60 (USD), this 96+ page booklet will be available for the first time at the ACCE. It contains a revised industry overview, all-new chapters, and breaking news about composite technologies now used in a broad spectrum of functional and aesthetic applications in a wide range of vehicles. Case studies, ranging from Class A body panels to structural chassis elements and running gear, will describe actual projects in detail, together with insights provided by designers, molders, and material suppliers. A few remaining sponsorship opportunities are still available to interested parties. Contact the publisher at +1.303.467.1776.

Over 55 abstracts from authors in the U.S., Canada, Japan, U.K., Germany, Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand, and Malaysia have already been submitted to the peer review committee. Sessions currently scheduled include:

- Developments in SMC Composites
- LFT / DLFT Composite Advances
- Bio- & Natural-Fiber Composites
- Enabling Technologies
- Structural Composite Applications
- New Composite Materials
- Simulation & Analysis of Composite Materials
- Nanocomposites
- Novel Composite Technologies

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Says Brosius, "The diversity of organizations represented this year emphasizes the global nature of the automotive industry and the increasing importance of the ACCE conference as a forum for automotive composites."

The conference is expected to draw a broad offering of sponsors and exhibitors representing composite materials, processing equipment, additives and reinforcements, molders, trade associations, and media headquartered in the Americas, Europe, and Asia/Pacific. This event provides an environment dedicated solely to discussion and networking about advances in the automotive composites industry – aspects sponsors indicate provide them genuine value. That is believed to be the reason the conference has a high repeat rate for exhibitors and sponsors from one year to the next. In fact, more than half of current sponsors have been with the event since the first year in 2001.

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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