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Contact:

Dale Brosius
SPE Auto. Composites Conf. Chair
Quickstep Technologies
Phone: +1.810.220.5770
eMail: dbrosius@comcast.net

or
Peggy Malnati
SPE Auto. Div. Communications Chair
Malnati & Associates
+1.248.592.0765
p.malnati@sbcglobal.net

SPE® ANNOUNCES THEME, LOCATION, DATES FOR 7TH-ANNUAL AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

***World's Leading Forum for Automotive Composites Returns with Theme Highlighting
Composites' Role in Driving Performance and Productivity in Ground Transportation***

TROY (DETROIT), MICH. – The organizing committee for the SPE ***Automotive Composites Conference & Exposition*** (ACCE) today announced the dates, theme, and location for this year's show. Now in its 7th year, the ACCE has become the world's leading forum for automotive composites and draws exhibitors, speakers, and attendees from Europe, the Middle East, and Asia / Pacific as well as North America. The event, sponsored jointly by the SPE Automotive and Composites Divisions, will be held September 11-13, 2007.

Dale Brosius, executive director and chief-operating officer for Quickstep Technologies Pty. Ltd., and immediate past chair of SPE's Thermoset Division, is returning as ACCE program chair in 2007. He said, "This year's conference theme is *„Driving Performance and Productivity*, which reflects the challenges facing automakers and the supply community. Consumers continue to demand higher performance in their vehicles – faster acceleration, better style and comfort, higher electronics content, and improved fuel economy – yet remain unwilling to sacrifice features like cost, safety, and vehicle size. Fortunately, the low mass, energy management, and design freedom of composites can help OEMs achieve these often conflicting objectives. The supply community is working hard to address issues like global competitiveness and cost pressures facing the OEMs, as many of the displays, papers, and keynote addresses presented at the ACCE each year demonstrate."

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Added Dr. Frank Henning of Fraunhofer Institut Chemische Technologie (ICT) in Germany, who is the returning ACCE program vice-chair and technical program co-chair, "Our committee searches the globe to find composites technologies that can answer OEM challenges. We work hard to assemble quality presentations and invite key exhibitors to highlight the types of solutions that composites can provide automakers."

Last year's ACCE conference drew record attendance thanks to a significantly expanded program with more technical papers, keynote presentations, panel discussions, networking receptions, sponsors, and exhibit space than any previous show in the event's 6-year history.

Of those attending last year's conference, one-third were from transportation OEMs and more than 15% represented Tier suppliers – extremely desirable numbers for a show like this. Another quarter of those attending identified themselves as being from resin suppliers, compounders, or distributors, or producers of prepregs or sheet-form composites. Additives and reinforcements suppliers and distributors made up another 10% of those who attended the event. The remaining attendees represented machinery OEMs and distributors, consulting firms, testing or engineering services companies, universities, trade associations or engineering societies, media, government agencies, and venture capital / financial-services organizations.

Attendees came not only from the United States and Canada, but also from Australia, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. Brosius concludes that "We'll continue to pursue an even stronger international flavor in 2007, as good automotive composites ideas are being developed all over the world, and we feel Detroit is still the best place to present them to the global automotive community."

Held annually in the suburbs of Detroit, the ACCE has become the world's leading forum for automotive composites. The event's success is attributed to the fact that it provides an environment dedicated solely to discussion and networking about advances in the automotive composites industry. Its global appeal is evident in the diversity of exhibitors, speakers, and attendees who come to the conference from Europe, the Middle East, and Asia / Pacific as well as North America and who represent transportation OEMs and tier suppliers; composite materials, processing equipment, additives, and reinforcement suppliers; trade associations, consultants, university and government labs, media, and investment bankers. Sponsored jointly by the SPE Automotive and Composites Divisions, this year's show will be held September 11-13, 2007 at the MSU Management Education Center in Troy, Mich.

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.

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

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