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SPE® ISSUES CALL FOR PAPERS, KEYNOTE ADDRESSES FOR 7TH-ANNUAL AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES CONFERENCE

Organizing Committee Seeks Speakers for World's Premier Forum on Automotive Composite Design, Materials, Processing Enhancements, and Applications

TROY (DETROIT), MICH. – The organizing committee for the SPE ***Automotive Composites Conference & Exposition*** (ACCE) today issued a *Call for Papers* for peer-reviewed technical presentations and keynote addresses for its 7th-annual show. Authors wishing to be considered for inclusion in this year's program should submit abstracts no later than March 30, 2007 and full papers (or slide presentations) by May 31, 2007 for peer review. Final corrected papers or presentations in the conference format are due by July 31, 2007 to assure inclusion in the conference's annual proceedings, which is published on CD and given to all attendees. Abstracts and papers should be e-mailed to ACCEpapers@gmail.com.

According to 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 has been hard at work since October reviewing areas for improvement and planning the 2007 ACCE show. It is our goal to maintain our reputation as the leading forum for automotive composites discussion in the world. To do that, we search internationally for the most innovative technology and applications we feel are advancing the field of ground transportation. We also listen to feedback from our attendees and try to plan our technical program around topics they identify as being important."

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Adds Dale Brosius, executive director / chief-operating officer for Quickstep Technologies Pty. Ltd. and returning ACCE program chair, “For example, we’re planning a panel discussion on *Marketing the Value of Composites*, which we feel will not only help startup technology companies, but also better explain composites’ value proposition to OEMs and tier suppliers. We’re also seeking keynote speakers from the wind-energy and aviation industries – both large consumers of carbon-fiber and fiberglass composites – to help highlight areas of potential technology transfer for ground transportation. And, responding to requests at last year’s OEM panel discussion, we’ve added a new technical track on design and analysis of composites.”

Topics already identified by this year’s planning committee include: *Advances in Thermoset and Thermoplastic Composites; Bio- & Natural Fiber Composites; Recycling of Composites; Bonding, Joining, & Finishing of Composites; Enabling Technologies; Nanocomposites; New Composite Materials & Processing; Structural Composite Applications, and Virtual Prototyping & Testing of Composites*. In addition, conference planners are already working on this year’s panel discussions, which tend to be among the most lively and well-attended discussions at the conference each year. The committee is also seeking keynote addresses that will be of particular interest to the automotive composites industry.

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.

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.

For more information on the Society of Plastics Engineers International or other SPE events, visit the SPE website at www.4spe.org, or call +1.203.775.0471.

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