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SPE® POSTS CONTENT FROM PREVIOUS AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES CONFERENCE CDs ON WEBSITE

Five Years' Worth of Conference Papers & Presentations Now Available for Viewing at No Cost from the World's Leading Automotive Composites Forum

TROY (DETROIT), MICH. – Papers and presentations as well as program guides from five of the first six years of the SPE® **Automotive Composites Conference & Exposition** (ACCE) are now available for viewing and downloading on the SPE Automotive Division's website at www.speautomotive.com/comp.htm at no charge. Jointly organized by the Automotive and Composites Divisions of the Society of Plastics Engineers, International, the ACCE has become the world's leading forum for automotive composites, annually drawing attendees, sponsors, and speakers from four continents.

"We decided to make this content available to the global automotive composites community to help us promote the value of composites in ground transportation," said Dale Brosius, executive director and chief-operating officer for Quickstep Technologies Pty. Ltd., immediate past chair of SPE's Thermoset Division, and returning ACCE program chair. "There is a large body of work as a result of six years of successful ACCE conferences," Brosius continued. "Having this material available online 24/7 will be of benefit to a number of groups, including OEM engineers, tier suppliers, material suppliers, industry consultants, university students studying composites technologies, and members of the media."

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The papers and presentations available cover such materials technologies as long-fiber reinforced thermoplastics (LFRT), glass-mat thermoplastic (GMT), natural-fiber composites, bio-composites (using non-petroleum feedstock for the resin's monomer), nanocomposites, sheet-molding compound (SMC), and advanced carbon fiber composites. Topics covered include novel fabrication technologies, finishing, paint films, design and testing of composites, structural applications, and new uses for composites in ground-transportation applications. The papers have been submitted by representatives from transportation OEMs, tier suppliers, materials and additive/reinforcement suppliers, machinery OEMs, government / academic labs, media, and consultants from around the world. Content has been posted from the 2002-2006 conferences. SPE previously sold copies of ACCE conference CDs for \$100 USD per CD per year.

Dr. Frank Henning of the Fraunhofer ICT in Germany, the returning ACCE conference vice-chair and technical program co-chair, added "We feel that easy and no-cost access to content from leading OEMs and suppliers around the world working in composites technologies will be of tremendous benefit, particularly for those who are new to composites or who work in regions where composites are not widely used. They will learn what mistakes to avoid and what technologies to select to enable their programs to reach commercialization faster."

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. This year's conference 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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