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## **SPE® ANNOUNCES CALL FOR PART NOMINATIONS FOR 37<sup>TH</sup> AUTOMOTIVE INNOVATION AWARDS COMPETITION**

**TROY, (DETROIT) MICH.** – The Automotive Division of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE®<sup>1</sup>) International today issued a *Call for Part Nominations* for its 37<sup>th</sup>-annual ***Automotive Innovation Awards Competition & Gala***. For more than 3-1/2 decades, this event has honored the "Most Innovative Use of Plastics" in automotive applications. Unofficially called the "Academy Awards<sup>2</sup> of the plastics and automotive industries," the event is the largest competition of its kind in the world and is the oldest and largest recognition event in the automotive and plastics industries.

The ***SPE Automotive Innovation Awards Competition*** was started in 1970 to recognize the positive changes that polymeric materials were bringing to the automotive industry, such as weight reduction, parts consolidation, and enhanced aesthetics and design freedom. At that time, many OEM designers and engineers thought of plastics as inexpensive replacements for more "traditional" materials. To help communicate that plastics were capable of far more functionality than their common use as decorative knobs and ashtrays, members of SPE's Automotive Division Board of Directors created the ***Automotive Innovation Awards Competition*** to recognize successful and innovative plastics applications and to communicate their benefits to OEMs, the media, and the general public. Over the years, the competition had the effect of highlighting plastics as an underutilized design tool and also drawing attention to more progressive ways of designing, engineering, and manufacturing automotive components.

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<sup>1</sup> SPE is a registered trademark of the Society of Plastics Engineers International.

<sup>2</sup> Academy Awards is a trademark of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

*SPE Issues Call for Part Nominations for 37<sup>th</sup>-Annual Innovation Awards Competition*  
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From its humble beginnings, the ***SPE Automotive Innovation Awards Competition*** has grown to be one of the most fiercely contested recognition events in the plastics and automotive industries. Today, polymeric materials are no longer substitutes for more expensive materials, but rather are the materials of choice in hundreds of different applications throughout the vehicle. Without plastics, many of the auto industry's most common comfort, control, and safety applications would not be possible.

During the competition phase of the event, dozens of teams made up of OEMs, tier suppliers, consultants, and polymer producers work for months to hone submission forms and presentations describing their part, system, or complete vehicle module and why it merits the claim as the year's "*Most Innovative Use of Plastics.*" Current categories include:

- Body Exterior,
- Body Interior,
- Chassis / Hardware,
- Environmental,
- Hall of Fame,
- Materials,
- Performance & Customization (*Automotive Aftermarket*),
- Process / Assembly / Enabling Technologies,
- Powertrain, and
- Safety.

To win, teams must survive a pre-competition review and two rounds of presentations before industry and media judges. Winners are announced at the ***Innovation Awards Gala***, an annual event that typically draws 600-800 OEM engineers, automotive- and plastics-industry executives, and media. This glittering evening of celebration honors innovation and the hardworking teams that bring it to market.

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* or to download nomination forms and rules, 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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