



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (06/30/07)

Media Contacts:

Brian Grosser, '06/'07 SPE Innovation Awards Chair
SPE Automotive Division Chair-
Phone: +1.248.941.9368
eMail: bkgrosser@sbcglobal.net

Peggy Malnati, SPE Auto. Div. Comm. Chair
Malnati & Associates
Phone: +1.248.592.0765
eMail: p.malnati@sbcglobal.net

SPE® SELECTS LAWRENCE BURNS FROM GM TO RECEIVE GLOBAL ENGINEERING LEADERSHIP AWARD

TROY, (DETROIT) MICH. – Lawrence (Larry) Burns, vice-president, Research & Development and Strategic Planning at General Motors Corp. (GM) is the 2007 recipient of the SPE® Automotive Division's **Global Executive Engineering Leadership Award**. Burns will be fêted at this year's 37th-annual ***SPE Automotive Innovation Awards Gala*** on November 7 at Burton Manor (www.burtonmanor.net/) in Livonia, Mich. He is the second GM executive to be named to an executive leadership award by the SPE Automotive Division in 2007.

The **Global Executive Engineering Leadership Award** was created to recognize an executive who has exhibited outstanding engineering leadership throughout his/her career and is considered to be an "Automotive All-Star" within the global transportation industry. Candidates are evaluated on their overall leadership in engineering roles throughout their careers, as well as the success of their performance in these roles, such as the number of new vehicles the candidate championed, had significant involvement in, or launched. This is the newest honor in SPE's lineup of executive leadership awards and it was first given last year to Chris P. Theodore, vice-chairman of American Specialty Cars (ASC).

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Lawrence Burns from GM to Receive Global Executive Engineering Leadership Award
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Burns was selected as this year's recipient for a number of reasons. In his current role, Burns oversees GM's advanced technology, innovation programs, and corporate strategy. He is a member of GM's Automotive Strategy Board and Automotive Product Board. In addition to driving innovation in today's vehicles, Burns also champions GM's "reinvention" of the automobile around technologies such as advanced propulsion, electronics, telematics, and materials technologies. According to GM, the goal of this initiative is to "realize sustainable mobility with vehicles that are *aspirational* and affordable." A key example is the introduction of the Volt plug-in-electric concept car at the 2007 Detroit Auto Show in January and the recent announcement by Burns that the Volt has been moved up to production engineering and assigned to the next-generation global compact vehicle architecture.

Burns began his career at GM in 1969 as a member of the Research & Development staff, where his work focused on transportation, logistics, and production systems. He subsequently held executive positions in several GM divisions in the areas of product program management, quality, production control, industrial engineering, and product and business planning. In May 1998, he was named as a vice president of General Motors with responsibility for R&D and Planning.

Burns is very active outside his direct work at GM. He is a member of the USCAR Operating Council and the FreedomCAR Partnership Executive Steering Committee. He serves on the University of Michigan's Automotive Research Center board and recently completed a 6-year term on its College of Engineering National Advisory Council. Additionally, he is a member of the Advisory Council for the University of California Berkeley's Institute of Transportation Studies and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Midwest Research Institute. Burns also sits on the board of the University of Michigan Center for Hearing Disorders and is a member of the National Advisory Group for the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology.

In 2000, Burns received Kettering University's Engineering Alumni Achievement Award for his contributions to the engineering profession. In 2002, the Deafness Research Foundation recognized him with its National Campaign for Hearing Health Leadership Award. In 2005, he was a member of a General Motors team awarded the Franz Edelman Award from the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences. Burns is also the recipient of the 2005 Alumni Merit Award from the University of Michigan Industrial and Operations Engineering Department. He recently completed a 2-year term as National Honorary Chairman for the MATHCOUNTS Foundation.

Burns holds a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley. He also has a Master's Degree in Engineering/Public Policy from the University of Michigan, and a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the former General Motors Institute (GMI), which is now called Kettering University.

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Lawrence Burns from GM to Receive Global Executive Engineering Leadership Award
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Prior to the start of the ***SPE Automotive Innovation Awards Gala***, Burns will be introduced to the media at a short press conference along with James Queen, this year's *Executive Leadership* award winner, also from GM. Both men will then be honored at a VIP cocktail reception reserved for program sponsors and senior-level automotive executives. The VIP cocktail reception, sponsored by Ticona Engineering Polymers, has been called "One of the absolute best networking opportunities in town" by supplier executives attending the event.

General Motors Corp. (NYSE: GM), the world's second-largest automaker, was the annual global industry sales leader for 76 years. Founded in 1908, GM today employs about 280,000 people around the world. With global headquarters in Detroit, GM manufactures cars and trucks in 33 countries. In 2006, 9.1-million GM cars and trucks were sold globally under the following brands: Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, GMC, GM Daewoo, Holden, HUMMER, Opel, Pontiac, Saab, Saturn and Vauxhall. GM's OnStar subsidiary is the industry leader in vehicle safety, security and information services. More information on GM can be found at www.gm.com.

SPE's ***Automotive Innovation Awards Gala*** is the largest competition of its kind in the world and the oldest recognition event in the automotive and plastics industries. Dozens of teams made up of OEMs, tier suppliers, and polymer producers submit nominations describing their part, system, or complete vehicle module and why it merits the claim as *Year's Most Innovative Use of Plastics*. This annual event typically draws over 600-800 OEM engineers, automotive and plastics industry executives, and media. As is customary, funds raised from the event are used to support SPE educational efforts and technical seminars, which help to secure the role of plastics in the advancement of the automobile.

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 Automotive Innovation Awards Gala***, visit the SPE Automotive Division's website at 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, or call +1.203.775.0471.

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