



PART NOMINATION DEADLINE EXTENDED TO SEPT. 29 FOR 38TH-ANNUAL SPE[®] AUTOMOTIVE INNOVATION AWARDS COMPETITION

TROY (DETROIT), MICH. – This week’s **SPE[®] Automotive Composites Conference** led to an influx of interest in submitting part nominations for the 2008 **SPE Automotive Innovation Awards Competition**, the oldest and largest parts competition in the automotive and plastics industries. Because of the spike in interest, the deadline for receipt of nominations has been extended from September 16 to September 29. A significant number of *Category*, *Hall of Fame*, and *Grand Award* winners in recent years have been composite or nanocomposites parts such as those on display or discussed in technical presentations at the **SPE ACCE**.

This year’s program is the 38th annual competition to recognize the *Most Innovative Use of Plastics* in automotive and ground-transportation applications. Companies wishing to nominate parts or complete systems should see the competition rules at www.speautomotive.com/inno.htm. If their component meets the criteria, they should fill out the nomination form and e-mail it before the deadline. There is no cost to enter the competition. Current nomination categories include:

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

To win, teams must survive a pre-competition review and two rounds of presentations in front of industry and media judges. The first round of judging (which establishes finalists for each category) will be held at Ticona Engineered Polymers’ office in Auburn Hills (Detroit-area), Mich. on October 8 and 9, and the Blue Ribbon judging (which selects category and Grand Award winners) will be held at the same location on October 15. Winners will be announced at the **Automotive Innovation Awards Gala** on November 20, an annual event that typically draws 600-800 OEM engineers, automotive- and plastics-industry executives, and media.

For more information about the **SPE Automotive Composites Conference**, visit the Composites’ Division website at www.4spe.org/communities/divisions/d39.php. For more information about the **SPE Innovation Awards Competition**, see www.speautomotive.com/inno.htm. To contact the group, call +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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