



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (08/15/08)

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## **SPE<sup>®</sup> TO HONOR FRANK MACHER WITH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD AT INNOVATION AWARDS GALA**

**TROY, (DETROIT) MICH.** – The Automotive Division of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE<sup>®</sup>) International today announced that it will honor Frank Macher, currently chief-executive officer and managing partner of FMAC & Associates, LLC of Ann Arbor, Mich., with its prestigious **Lifetime Achievement Award** at the 38<sup>th</sup>-annual **SPE Automotive Innovation Awards Gala**, November 20, 2008. Macher, a recognized expert in strategic and business planning, advanced technologies, product development, and manufacturing processes and operations, was selected to be this year's award recipient due to his long and distinguished career in the automotive industry managing businesses with strong plastic-component operations. has more than 45 years' experience in the automotive industry – 30 of it with Ford Motor Co., primarily in manufacturing.

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*SPE to Give Frank Macher its Lifetime Achievement Award this November*  
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The ***Lifetime Achievement Award*** recognizes the technical achievements of automotive industry executives whose work – in research, design, and/or engineering, etc. – has led to significant integration of polymeric materials on vehicles. First given in 2000, past winners include:

- J.T. Battenberg III, former chairman and chief-executive officer of Delphi;
- Bernard Robertson, then executive vice-president of DaimlerChrysler;
- Robert Schaad, chairman of Husky;
- Tom Moore, retired vice-president, Liberty and Technical Affairs at DaimlerChrysler;
- Mr. Shigeki Suzuki, general manager - Materials Division at Toyota Motor Company;
- Barbara A. Sanders, then director - Advanced Development & Engineering Processes at Delphi Thermal Systems; and
- Josh Madden, retired General Motors Corp. and Volkswagen of America.

Prior to founding his current company, Macher was chief-executive officer (CEO) and president of Collins & Aikman Corp. (C&A), a \$4-billion USD supplier of automotive interiors. Having taken responsibility after the company declared bankruptcy, Macher was recognized by *Automotive News* magazine in 2006 as their "Supplier All-Star" of the year for his ability to keep C&A operating despite its cash challenges.

Before joining C&A, Macher was CEO and chairman of the board of Federal Mogul Corp., a \$6-billion USD publicly traded company in the automotive powertrain and aftermarket sectors. While at Federal Mogul, Macher restructured the company in an asbestos-related Chapter 11 bankruptcy, which allowed for a massive operational turnaround for the company with \$600-million USD in cost savings. This move also increased revenues, consolidated operations, and expanded the company's manufacturing operations into low-cost manufacturing regions such as China and Eastern Europe.

Previous to his term at Federal Mogul, Macher held the position of president and CEO at ITT Automotive, a \$6-billion USD subsidiary of ITT Industries. There, he led the divestitures of the TEVES brake and control business for \$1.9-billion USD and the Rotating Electrical Group for \$1.7-billion USD. These divestitures provided ITT with a major cash infusion that allowed the company to successfully grow its core fluids, connectors, and defense businesses, creating substantial shareholder value.

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The majority of Macher's long and distinguished career was spent at Ford Motor Co., where he held many key executive positions, including vice-president, Automotive Components Group, an \$11-billion USD operation and the predecessor to Visteon. During his tenure at the Automotive Components Group, Macher expanded the company's electronics operations on a global basis. He also established five joint ventures in China, including Yan Fang, now a \$2-billion USD entity partnered with Shanghai Automotive Industrial Corporation. In addition, Macher developed a joint venture with Halla Climate Control, which now is a \$2-billion USD developer of low-cost heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC) systems for the automotive industry. Halla, a 50/50 joint-venture with Korea's Mando Corp., has become a wholly owned subsidiary of Visteon Corp. Macher also held the position of vice-president-Ford North Pacific, where he was a member of the board of directors of Mazda Corp. During that time, Macher led negotiations for a 10% equity position in Kia Motors of South Korea. Among other key positions Macher held during his three decades at Ford was director-Corporate Quality, chief engineer-Interiors, and general manager of two divisions.

During the early days of Macher's career, he was involved in many automotive plastics innovations, including the first:

- Polyethylene fender liner on the Lincoln Town Car (early 1970s);
- Two-shot, rear tail lens molding process (developed with Farrell Corp. and fellow Ford employee, Larry Westin) around 1972;
- All-plastic, one-piece instrument panel on the 1975 model year (MY) Cougar passenger car;
- Electron-beam (E-Beam) cured paint for plastic instrument panels around 1975 (with Ford employee, Norm Brennan);
- Blow-molded polyethylene fuel tank on the 1979 MY Mustang sports car; and
- Tubular cross-car beam designs (working in conjunction with Ford's William Caldwell) that provided stiffness, structure, and reduced noise/vibration/harshness (NVH) for modular instrument panel systems, which could now be plugged into the vehicle as a single assembly for just-in-time (JIT) sequencing operations.

Macher is a former board member for Decoma International, Federal Mogul, and Collins & Aikman. He has also served on the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Leaders for Manufacturing Board, Stanford Industrial Manufacturing Advisors, and Kettering University Board of Trustees. He is currently a board member of Tenneco Corp., where he also serves on the Audit Committee. Macher has lectured in the MBA programs at Harvard University, Dartmouth College, and currently guest-lectures annually at Georgetown University. He holds a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering from Kettering University, and an MBA from Michigan State University.

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This year's **SPE Automotive Innovation Awards** gala will be held at Burton Manor ([www.Burtonmanor.net](http://www.Burtonmanor.net)) in Livonia, Mich. Frank Macher will receive his **Lifetime Achievement Award** during the main program, which runs from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Macher will be presented to the media during a short press conference at 4:00 p.m. that will then segue into the VIP Cocktail Reception, generously sponsored by Ticona Engineering Polymers. During the reception, Executive Award winners will be fêted by peers, media, and major sponsors. At 5:30 p.m. the main exhibit area will open for general admission and guests can review this year's **Automotive Innovation Awards** part nominations, as well as enjoy the specialty and antique vehicles that are always a highlight of the show. Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the program itself begins at 7:00 p.m. For those who wish to extend merrymaking and networking activities, the ever-popular *Afterglow* – also sponsored by Ticona Engineering Polymers – will run from 9:00-11:00 p.m.

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 **Automotive Innovation Awards Competition and Gala** or to download nomination forms and rules, visit the SPE Automotive Division's website at [www.speautomotive.com/inno.htm](http://www.speautomotive.com/inno.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](http://www.4spe.org), or call +1.203.775.0471.

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