



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (06/27/08)**

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## **SPE<sup>®</sup> ANNOUNCES DATE, THEME FOR 38<sup>TH</sup>-ANNUAL AUTOMOTIVE INNOVATION AWARDS GALA**

**TROY, (DETROIT) MICH.** – The Automotive Division of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE<sup>®</sup>) International today announced that the date for its 38th-annual **Automotive Innovation Awards Gala**, the oldest and largest recognition event in the automotive and plastics industries, will be Thursday, November 20, 2008 at Burton Manor in the suburbs of Detroit. This year's theme is **Plastics: Vision 20/20** in recognition of the new corporate-average fuel-economy (CAFE) standards that automakers selling into the U.S. market will need to meet by the year 2020.

Maria Ciliberti, Global Automotive director, Ticona Engineering Polymers, and also the **SPE Automotive Innovation Awards** chair for 2008 said, "This year's **Innovation Awards** theme highlights the kinds of innovation that plastics and composites offer OEMs as they work to meet the new 35-mpg CAFE standard for their future product lineups. An increased use of plastics on vehicles is a practical, proven, and economical option for providing car buyers with higher fuel economy without sacrificing safety, comfort, or styling. This year's gala is certain to provoke new ideas in the minds of designers, engineers, and their management. Not only will the most innovative new applications on '08 and '09 vehicle models be on display, but we also will have displays sponsored by USCAR and the Department of Energy. We look forward to seeing you at the Awards Gala on November 20th."

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*SPE Announces Date, Theme for 38th-Annual Innovation Awards Competition*  
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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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