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SPE® ANNOUNCES BEST PAPER AWARD WINNERS FOR 2008 AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

***Four Author Teams to be Recognized for Excellence in Technical Communication
During Opening Ceremonies at 8th-Annual ACCE Show***

TROY (DETROIT), MICH. – Organizers for the **SPE Automotive Composites Conference & Exhibition** (SPE ACCE) today announced the winners of this year's **Best Paper Awards** for excellence in technical writing. The winning entries were selected from among all written papers (not presentations) submitted for peer review by the conference's deadline. Winning authors will be honored for their achievement during opening ceremonies at the show, which runs from September 16-18, 2008 at the MSU Management Education Center in Troy, Mich.

In the category of **New Materials**, the winning paper – which will be presented in the conference's *Nanocomposites Session* on Wednesday, September 17 – was **NanoStructured Polymer Membrane for Fuel Cell Application: Computational NanoTechnology Approach**, which was authored by the team of Seung Soon Jang (presenter), Georgia Institute of Technology's School of Materials Science & Engineering, and William Goddard III, California Institute of Technology's Materials & Process Simulation Center.

In the category of **Composite Applications**, the winning paper – which will be presented in the conference's *Composites in Trucks Session* on Wednesday, September 17 – was **Case Study: Tough, Low-Mass Class A SMC** by the writing team of Edward Zenk, Navistar, Inc.; David Hearn, Core Molding Technologies; and Kevin Dinan, Robert Seats, and Cedric Ball, Ashland, Inc. Zenk, Seats, and Travis Horstman (Core Molding Technologies) will co-present the paper at the conference.

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In the category of **Processing / Enabling Technologies**, a tie occurred between two papers that both will be presented in the *Enabling Technologies Session* on Thursday, September 18: the first paper was **An In-depth Study on Texture Characteristics & their Affects on Texture Performance** by Phil Maniscalchi of Mold-Tech; and the second paper was **Rapid Manufacturing for Highly Stressed Fibre-Reinforced Plastic Parts: Motorbike Dashboard and Support Made by Windform XT and SLS Technology** by the author team of Stewart Davis (presenter), Livia Cevolini, and Giampiero Testoni, of CRP Technology and CRP Racing.

Now in its 8th year, the **SPE ACCE** has become the world's leading forum for automotive composites and draws exhibitors, speakers, and attendees from Europe, the Middle East, and Asia / Pacific as well as North America. Held annually in the suburbs of Detroit, the conference provides an environment dedicated solely to discussion and networking about advances in the automotive composites industry. Its global appeal is evident in the diversity of exhibitors, speakers, and attendees who come to the conference from Europe, the Middle East, and Asia / Pacific as well as North America and who represent transportation OEMs and tier suppliers; composite materials, processing equipment, additives, and reinforcement suppliers; trade associations, consultants, university and government labs; media; and investment bankers. The show is sponsored jointly by the SPE Automotive and Composites Divisions.

The mission of SPE is to promote scientific and engineering knowledge relating to plastics. SPE's Automotive and Composites Divisions work to advance plastics and plastic-based composites technologies worldwide and to educate industry, academia, and the public about these advances. Both divisions are dedicated to educating, promoting, recognizing, and communicating technical accomplishments for all phases of plastics and plastic-based composite developments, including materials, processing, equipment, tooling, design and testing, and application development.

For more information about the **SPE Automotive Composites Conference & Exhibition**, visit the Composites' Division website at www.4spe.org/communities/divisions/d39.php, or the Automotive Division's website at www.speautomotive.com/comp.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, or call +1.203.775.0471.

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