



INTERNATIONAL AUTO COMPONENTS GROUP'S SESSEL TO GIVE KEYNOTE ON "THE INTERIOR CHALLENGE" AT ELEVENTH SPE® AUTOMOTIVE TPO CONFERENCE

TROY, (DETROIT) MICH. – Maurice Sessel, vice-president-Product Engineering for International Automotive Components Group North America (IAC) will be a keynote speaker at the **SPE® Detroit Section's eleventh-annual Automotive TPO Global Conference**, the world's leading forum for automotive usage of thermoplastic olefins, October 4-7, 2009 at the Sterling Inn, Sterling Heights, Mich. Sessel, whose career has long focused on automotive interiors, will give the event's opening keynote on "*The Interior Challenge*" from 8:45-9:15 a.m. on October 5.

Tougher government mandates for increased fuel efficiency is putting automakers under tremendous pressure to find ways to reduce vehicle mass. This, combined with stricter government safety requirements and greater consumer expectations, means OEMs and suppliers must find material and engineering solutions to satisfy often-conflicting needs. "For suppliers of interior components and systems, this presents both challenges and opportunities," notes Sessel. "The challenge requires out-of-the-box thinking in the use of existing materials, and/or development of new materials. Opportunities come with the ability to provide input during key stages of the interior development cycle – from materials selection to tooling, testing, and production of the finished component."



In his role as vice-president-Product Engineering at IAC, Sessel is responsible for global material and product engineering, engineering design, manufacturing engineering, tooling development, corporate facilities management, and cost optimization across the company's full range of interior and exterior products and services. Previously, he oversaw merging global engineering best practices for IAC as it acquired Collins & Aikman operations in late 2007, and leveraged design and engineering synergies with IAC sister companies in Europe and South America to ensure global program continuity and compatibility. Sessel also orchestrated IAC's Global Development & Launch System linking IAC's engineering centers in Pune, India, Shanghai, China and Dearborn, Michigan, resulting in optimal efficiency, cost competitiveness, and product development. Prior to joining IAC, Sessel spent 9 years with Lear Corp. in a variety of executive positions and worked the first 15 years of his career at Ford Motor Co. He holds a BSME from University of Wyoming.

Since 1998, the **SPE Automotive TPO Global Conference** has highlighted the importance of rigid and flexible polyolefins throughout the vehicle. The show typically draws over 400 attendees from 20 countries on 4 continent and is held annually at the Best Western Sterling Inn (www.sterlinginn.com) in Sterling Heights, Mich.

For more information about the **SPE Automotive TPO Global Conference**, to view the conference's schedule of presentations, or to register to attend the event, please visit <http://auto-tpo.com/> or www.speautomotive.com/tpo.htm, or contact the group at +1.248.244.8993, or write SPE Detroit Section, Division, 1800 Crooks Road, Suite A, Troy, MI 48084, USA.