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## **SPE<sup>®</sup> AUTO TPO CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS ANNOUNCE 2011 EVENT DATES, ISSUE CALL FOR PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS**

**TROY, (DETROIT) MICH.** – The thirteenth-annual **SPE<sup>®</sup> Automotive TPO Global Conference**, the *world's leading automotive olefins forum* sponsored by the **Detroit Section** of the **Society of Plastics Engineers** (SPE<sup>®</sup>), will be held **October 2-5, 2011**. Since 1998, SPE volunteers have organized the conference to update attendees on the latest developments in rigid and elastomeric thermoplastic olefins (TPOs). The show typically features 40+ technical presentations, panel discussions, keynote speakers, networking receptions, and exhibits that highlight advances in olefin materials, processes, and applications technologies as well as a growing range of thermoplastic elastomers (TPEs) and thermoplastic vulcanizates (TPVs).

The polyolefin supply chain has experienced major changes in recent years that are providing both challenges and opportunities for OEMs and the entire supply community. To help attendees better follow these trends, traditional technical sessions on *Materials Development, Polypropylene Compounds, Applications Development, Surface Enhancements, and TPO / TPE Interfaces* are planned for this year's program, as well as a new session on *Polyolefin Foam & Processes*. Those interested in presenting this year should submit both abstracts and papers / presentations to [TPOpapers@auto-TPO.com](mailto:TPOpapers@auto-TPO.com). Abstracts are due **April 29, 2011** and non-commercial papers or presentations are due **September 9, 2011**.

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*Organizers Issue Call for Papers for Thirteenth-Annual SPE Auto TPO Conference  
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For the first time in the event's history, this year's conference will be held at a new venue: the Troy-Marriott (Troy, Mich., <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/dtttt-detroit-marriott-troy/?clusterCode=MW1>). A variety of sponsorship packages are available for companies interested in showcasing their products and / or services.

## **About the TPO Conference**

Since 1998, the ***SPE Automotive TPO Global Conference*** has highlighted the importance of rigid and flexible polyolefins throughout the automobile – in applications ranging from semi-structural composite underbody shields and front-end modules to soft-touch interior skins and bumper fascia. Polyolefins have been the fastest-growing segment of the global plastics industry for more than a decade owing to their excellent cost / performance ratio. The show typically draws over 400 attendees from 20 countries on four continents who are interested in learning about the latest in rigid and elastomeric TPO as well as TPE and TPV technologies. Fully a third of conference attendees say they work for a transportation OEM, and roughly 20% work for a tier integrator / molder, with the balance from materials or reinforcement suppliers, equipment OEMs, industry consultants, and members of academia.

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 Detroit Section is active in educating, promoting, recognizing, and communicating technical accomplishments for all phases of plastics and plastic based-composite developments – particularly in the automotive industry. Topic areas include applications, materials, processing, equipment, tooling, design, and development.

For more information about the ***SPE Automotive TPO Global Conference***, to view the conference's evolving technical program, or to register to attend the event, please visit <http://auto-tpo.com> or [www.speautomotive.com/tpo.htm](http://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. 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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