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## **SPE<sup>®</sup> AUTO TPO CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS ANNOUNCE 2015 EVENT DATES & LOCATION, EXTEND ABSTRACT DEADLINE**

**TROY, (DETROIT) MICH.** – The seventeenth-annual **SPE<sup>®</sup> TPO Automotive Engineered Polyolefins Conference**, the *world's leading automotive engineered-polyolefins forum*, returns to the Troy Marriott in the Detroit suburbs from **October 4-7, 2015**. The committee also has extended its deadline for abstracts as part of its annual call for papers and presentations. Abstracts were previously due April 18 but now will be accepted through the end of June with non-commercial papers or presentations due **July 31, 2015**.

"The auto industry faces a dynamic period with profound changes coming from government mandates for higher fuel economy and/or lower tailpipe emissions," notes Dr. Sassan Tarahomi, manager-Advanced Engineering, International Automotive Components (IAC) and 2015 Auto TPO conference co-chair. "That means we can expect to see a great deal of new and 'disruptive' technologies introduced during the next decade. We selected a theme for this year's conference — *TPOs Delivering Performance* — that seeks to remind our colleagues in the auto industry just what a disruptive and productive category of polymers TPOs, TPEs, and TPVs have been over the past few decades."

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*Organizers Issue Call for Papers for Seventeenth-Annual SPE Auto TPO Conference  
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Conference co-chair, David Okonski, subject-matter expert (SME)-Injection Molding / CAE / Moldflow at General Motors Co. adds, "For seventeen years, the Auto TPO conference has been known for the quality of its technical program, its exceptional networking opportunities, and the open dialogue it fosters between all members of the automotive-plastics supply chain. We hope once again to attract a large global crowd of attendees, speakers, and sponsors/exhibitors who are passionate about making passenger cars better, safer, greener, and more responsive to consumer demands."

This year's technical program is co-chaired by Dr. Norm Kakarala, Inteva Products LLC and Dr. Debbie Mielewski, Ford Motor Co. Sessions currently planned for the event include:

- **Adhesives & Coatings of TPO** organized by Hoa Pham, Freudenberg Performance Materials and Dr. Pravin Sitaram, Haartz Corp.;
- **Advances in Automotive Polyolefins** organized by Neil Fuenmayor, LyondellBasell and Laura Soreide, Ford Motor Co.;
- **Bio-Based Polyolefin Materials** organized by Susan Kozora, International Automotive Components (IAC) Group and Dr. Ellen Lee, Ford Motor Co.;
- **Interior Soft Trim: Skins & Foams** organized by Dave Helmer, General Motors Co. and Robert Eller, Robert Eller Associates;
- **Lightweighting Polyolefin Parts** organized by John Haubert, FCA US LLC and Normand Miron, Milliken Corp.;
- **Polyolefin Underhood Applications** organized by Jim Hemphill, Dow Elastomers, and Joel Myers, Hyundai Kia America Technical Center, Inc.;
- **Process/Enabling Technologies** organized by Dr. Suresh Shah, SPE and Kurt Anthony, Washington Penn Plastic Co., Inc.;
- **Rigid Polyolefin Compounds** organized by Mike Balow, Asahi Kasei North America and Ermanno Rucolo, Mitsui Plastics, Inc.; and
- **Surface Enhancements** organized by Dr. Rose Ryntz, IAC and Jim Keller, United Paint Co.

Anyone interested in presenting a paper at this year's conference should submit an abstract as soon as possible to [TPOpapers@auto-tpo.com](mailto:TPOpapers@auto-tpo.com). A non-commercial paper or presentation should be sent to the same address by July 31.

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## **About the Auto TPO Conference**

Since 1998, the ***SPE TPO Automotive Engineered Polyolefins 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. Engineered 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 more than 700 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. A variety of sponsorship packages are available for companies interested in showcasing their products and / or services. The show is organized by volunteers from the ***Detroit Section*** of the ***Society of Plastics Engineers*** (SPE).

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 TPO Automotive Engineered Polyolefins Conference***, see <http://auto-tpo.com/> or <http://speautomotive.com/tpo.htm>.

For more information on the Society of Plastics Engineers, see [www.4spe.org](http://www.4spe.org).

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