

2003 ACCE Chair Welcome

On behalf of the Society of Plastics Engineers' Automotive and Composites Divisions, welcome to the 3rd-Annual Automotive Composites Conference! Composite materials continue to gain acceptance and use in automotive applications, largely due to their ability to reduce vehicle weight and improve safety in a cost-effective manner.

SPE has designed this program to provide the most comprehensive automotive-focused composites conference in the world, featuring presentations on proven, real-world technologies. Two new subject areas are highlighted in this year's technical program:

- *Advancements in Reinforcement Technologies* was added to explore recent developments demonstrating the benefits of mixed-reinforcement and mixed-material technologies. These hybrid structures are being used to create unique new materials with tailored properties that successfully address the concerns of today's automakers.
- *Leading-Edge Composite Cars* is designed to open discussion of how technologies featured in exotic vehicles could be translated to the mass-production environment. Both North American and European technical developments are featured.

In addition, we continue technical sessions in the areas of:

- New Composite Materials, Processes and Applications;
- Composites in Commercial Transportation;
- Enabling Technologies; and
- Bonding and Joining.

Many new technologies and practical solutions are featured in these sessions.

Distinguished keynote speakers provide additional real-world experience in the areas of automotive composites industry successes and challenges, intellectual property protection, use of economic analysis during technology development, and carbon fiber for automotive applications.

You also have the opportunity to talk one-on-one with industry experts, customers, suppliers and other partner companies by visiting the exhibits and attending Tuesday evening's reception. We hope you will be able to make the most of the Automotive Composites Conference & Exposition's opportunity for learning and networking.

This conference is successful because of the exceptional support provided by our sponsors, exhibitors, and volunteers. We appreciate your attendance and welcome your feedback to improve the content and format for next year.

Best regards,

Renita Jones

Chair – 2003 SPE Automotive Composites Conference
North American Product Manager, Curv™ Composites
Amoco Fabrics & Fibers Company, Part of the BP Group

