



Welcome

to the 10th-Annual Automotive Composites Conference & Exhibition

The Automotive and Composites Divisions of the Society of Plastics Engineers International (SPE®) welcome you to the 10th-Annual Automotive Composites Conference and Exhibition (ACCE). For a full decade, the ACCE has assembled the most relevant program of presenters, keynote speakers and panelists whose focus is automotive composites.

The intersection of these two industries, cars and composites, couldn't be more exciting! This year's theme "*Composites: Shaping New Vehicles*" references the role of composites in the engineering of a new generation of cars and trucks prompted by what is clearly a new reality for the global auto industry. The momentum for the use of cost-effective and lightweight composites had been building. Environmental concerns, higher fuel prices, faster model changes, greater safety and performance requirements all seemed to favor composites. Yet, most high-volume producers continue to use composites only sparingly. Has the global economic crisis changed all that? Will the advent of hybrid, electric and fuel cell-powered vehicles usher in a new era of composites use? What role will composites have in shaping new vehicle designs? This year's panel discussion explores where our industry is headed.

Especially on our 10th anniversary, I would like to thank the planning committee members for their contributions. The ACCE is the result of a year-round effort between the SPE Automotive and Composites Divisions. The conference would not be what it is today without their support, the support of our sponsors or *you* – the members of our industry.

Thank you for attending and enjoy the conference!

Cedric Ball

Cedric Ball
2009 & 2010 SPE Automotive Composites Conference Chair
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