

# WELCOME

## FROM THE 2011 SPE ACCE CONFERENCE CHAIR

On behalf of the Automotive and Composites Divisions of the Society of Plastics Engineers International, I bid you welcome to the 11<sup>th</sup>-annual **Automotive Composites Conference and Exhibition**. This year's theme is "**Driving Design**." As the conference enters its second decade, we are excited to present to you the **world's leading automotive composites forum** and we again have attracted presenters and attendees from around the globe.

This year we have extended our conference to a three-day forum as the automotive markets continue their recovery. Our 2011 program features a comprehensive number of papers and presentations and our focus continues to be on utilization of composites in automotive and transportation.

This year we have:

- 56 peer reviewed technical papers plus 9 keynote speakers from industry leaders;
- Panel discussions on *The Role of Composites in Battery Cases & Trays for Fleet Electrification and Measuring the Sustainability Proposition of Composites*;
- PPG – SPE Graduate and Undergraduate Poster Competition;
- ACCE Best Technical Paper Awards;
- A wonderful array of exhibitors and sponsors;
- Our annual cocktail reception sponsored by American Composites Manufacturers Association (ACMA) – Automotive Composites Alliance (ACA);
- A presentation on new styrene regulations and their ramifications on industry by the American Composites Manufacturers Association (ACMA);
- And, just as importantly, a small friendly environment that fosters the networking with suppliers, colleagues, and customers that have made this event a success for over a decade.

It is an honor to be the chair for the 2011 ACCE and to have worked with the planning committee as a speaker, then a member, and now leading it. The planning committee for the ACCE is a volunteer group of industry experts dedicated to the growth of composites and passionate about the automotive business. It is my humble responsibility to be the face of this great group of professionals from both the Automotive and Composites Divisions of SPE. Without the year-round efforts of this committee, we would not continue to present the scope and quality of conference that the ACCE has come to embody.

I also want to personally thank all our authors and presenters, keynote speakers, panelists, sponsors, and attendees. Please take advantage of this unique composites conference and the opportunities it presents to help you in your quest for greater utilization of composites!

Enjoy the conference and please contact any of our planning committee members if you have questions or feedback for us.

Kind Regards,

*Creig Bowland*

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