

WELCOME

FROM THE 2012 SPE® ACCE CONFERENCE CHAIR

On behalf of the Automotive and Composites Divisions of the Society of Plastics Engineers, I bid you welcome to the 12th-annual Automotive Composites Conference & Exhibition. This year's theme is "*Unleashing the Power of Design.*" As our conference continues to grow, we are excited to present to you the *world's leading automotive composites forum.* We have attracted presenters and attendees from around the globe.

This year we have the largest technical program and the most sponsors and exhibitors in our 12-year history. To accommodate this growth we have expanded the space available for sponsors and exhibitors, and have moved our lunch service outside the building on the north side. Our focus on the utilization of composites in automotive has not changed. Further, we have added two R&D facility tours at the end of our formal sessions that offer an exciting opportunity to see some new and novel technologies that hold the promise of reshaping the composites market.

This year we have:

- Over 70 peer-reviewed technical papers, plus 6 industry-leading keynote speakers
- 2 panel discussions on issues surrounding design, analysis, manufacturing, and assembly of the multi-material vehicle
- Graduate and Undergraduate Poster Sessions
- ACCE Best Paper Awards
- A wonderful array of exhibitors and sponsors
- Our annual cocktail receptions sponsored by Momentive on Tuesday evening and by the Composites and Automotive Divisions of SPE on Wednesday evening
- A new composite parts competition with an award presented during our closing ceremony
- An R&D center tour on Thursday afternoon to Plasan Carbon Composites (Wixom, MI, USA)
- An R&D center tour of the new Fraunhofer Project Centre for Composites Research at Western University (London, ONT, Canada) all day Friday
- And, just as importantly, a small friendly environment that fosters networking with suppliers, colleagues, and customers.

It is an honor to again be the chair of the ACCE for 2012. 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 assembly of professionals from both the Automotive and the Composites Divisions of SPE. It is a year-long process to bring you the ACCE and requires the dedicated support of our committee.

I also want to personally thank all our authors and presenters, keynote speakers, panel members, sponsors, exhibitors, 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

Creig Bowland
2011 & 2012 SPE Automotive Composites Conference & Exhibition Chair
PPG Industries

