

Welcome

to ACCE 2015



On behalf of the Automotive and Composites Divisions of SPE, I'd like to welcome you to our 15th-annual Automotive Composites Conference and Exhibition, which we have grown to call ACCE. I would especially like to thank our volunteer organizers, technical presenters, and sponsors for, once again, organizing a world-class event. Our conference/expo has grown to be a significant event that supports our industry's needs for the development of materials, applications, processes, and overall technologies.

We must feel very fortunate to be participants in the dynamic, challenging, and ever-changing transportation industry. It is our task, however, to lead the significant changes demanded by our industry's customers, regulatory bodies, and competitive challenges. These changes, which involve vehicle *lightweighting*, improved vehicle dynamics, aesthetics, and the ever-popular cost containment, are brought about by you, our ACCE participants. These are daunting tasks, but you are up to the challenge.

Please take time not only to listen to our informative speakers and presenters, but also to visit our sponsors' exhibits. Talk to them about what they can do to support your needs and how they can assist your program efforts. You will be well rewarded by these networking opportunities.

To paraphrase a popular movie dialog, your mission, should you decide to accept it, is to come to our ACCE with questions; you are to leave with answers. Good luck.

Best regards,

Fred Deans

2015 SPE ACCE Co-Chair
Chief Marketing Officer,
Allied Composite Technologies LLC

This year's SPE[®] ACCE proceedings is cloud based.

To access content, please go to:

http://speautomotive.com/SPEA_CD/SPEA2015/about.htm

If you absolutely must have a CD, please
come to the front desk and inquire.

We have a limited number for conference attendees.

from the 2015 SPE[®] Conference Chairs

Welcome to the SPE Automotive Composites Conference and Exhibition. As the world's leading conference dedicated solely to automotive composites, we continue to attract a global audience, providing solutions to improve vehicle performance to meet future targets for emissions, fuel efficiency, and safety. This year's theme, *"The Next Generation of Lightweighting"* recognizes that this is not a new topic; there are innovations constantly introduced in lighter metallic structures in addition to plastics and composites.

We are moving into the era of "smart lightweighting," where new vehicle designs already employ a combination of metals and high-performance composites in ways that only a few years ago seemed too difficult to achieve. In so doing, engineers are putting materials where they will have the greatest impact on mass reduction with the least cost penalty. This is not just materials substitution, but a holistic approach to vehicle design, requiring new technologies to model and simulate, rapidly fabricate, and effectively assemble.

This is the fifteenth year of the ACCE, and the conference continues to grow in quality, reputation, and most important, its value to the automotive community worldwide. All of this is made possible by the strong contributions from our sponsors, speakers, and numerous SPE volunteers and staff. My co-chair, Fred Deans, was the conference chair in ACCE's inaugural season and again in the fourth; I chaired the sixth, seventh and eighth years. Our industry has seen a lot of change in the intervening period, and we are in very exciting times. When the opportunity came to chair this year's event, we both wanted to lead and I am very glad that we did. We have an outstanding program and a record number of exhibitors, reflecting the enthusiasm around composites.

Thank you for attending, and enjoy the SPE ACCE.

Best regards,

Dale Brosius

2015 SPE ACCE Co-Chair
Chief Commercialization Officer,
Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing Innovation (IACMI)

