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## ***SPE<sup>®</sup> AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES CONFERENCE BREAKS ATTENDANCE RECORDS AT BIGGEST SHOW EVER***

***One-Third of Attendees at 6<sup>th</sup>-Annual ACCE Conference from Transportation OEMs,  
15% from Tier Suppliers; 10 Foreign Countries were Represented***

**TROY (DETROIT), MICH.** – This year's **SPE<sup>®</sup> Automotive Composites Conference & Exhibition** (ACCE) – sponsored jointly by the SPE Automotive and Composites Divisions on September 12-14, here – drew a record 424 people, 100 more than the event's previous attendance record. Attendees came not only from the United States and Canada, but also from Australia, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

Of those attending, nearly one-third (123 people, 29%) were from transportation OEMs and 15.1% (64 attendees) represented Tier suppliers – extremely desirable numbers for a show like this. More than one-quarter of those attending (107 visitors, 25.2% of the total) came from resin suppliers, compounders, or distributors, or producers of prepregs or sheet-form composites. Additives and reinforcements suppliers and distributors were next with 10% of the attendees (43). Machinery OEMs and distributors had 21 attendees (5%). Consultants made up 4.7% (20 people), and 15 people (3.5%) worked for testing or engineering services companies. University students and professors represented 3.3% (14), and those who work for trade associations or engineering societies had 6 attendees (1.4%). The rest of the audience was comprised of media (5 people, 1.2%), government research agencies (4 people (0.9%) from 3 countries), and from venture capital / financial services organizations 2 (0.5%).

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### *6<sup>th</sup>-Annual Automotive Composites Conference Breaks Records*

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The '06 SPE ACCE Conference Chair, Dale Brosius, who is also executive director and chief-operating officer for Australian-based Quickstep Technologies Pty. Ltd., and the immediate past division chair for the SPE Thermoset Division, said "By all accounts, this year's SPE Automotive Composites Conference was a success. Our planning committee worked very hard on this year's show so it would offer greater value for attendees, sponsors, speakers, and media. This event has become a year-round effort. As we wrap up the '06 program, we're already beginning our planning for the '07 conference." The 7<sup>th</sup>-annual SPE ACCE event will be held September 11-13, 2007.

The ACCE provides an environment dedicated solely to discussion and networking about advances in the automotive composites industry. As such, it has become known as a must-attend event for the North American automotive composites industry, although it also draws exhibitors, speakers, and attendees from Europe, the Middle East, and Asia / Pacific.

The mission of SPE is to promote scientific and engineering knowledge relating to plastics. SPE's Automotive and Composites Divisions work to advance plastics and plastic-based composites technologies worldwide and to educate industry, academia, and the public about these advances. Both divisions are dedicated to educating, promoting, recognizing, and communicating technical accomplishments for all phases of plastics and plastic based-composite developments, including applications, materials, processing, equipment, tooling, design, and development.

For more information about the SPE Automotive Composites Conference, visit the Composites' Division website at [www.4spe.org/communities/divisions/d39.php](http://www.4spe.org/communities/divisions/d39.php), or the Automotive Division's website at [www.speautomotive.com](http://www.speautomotive.com), or contact the group at +1.248.244.8993, or write SPE Automotive Division, 1800 Crooks Road, Suite A, Troy, MI 48084, USA.

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