



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (03/09/07)**

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## **SPE® ANNOUNCES CALL FOR EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS FOR 37<sup>TH</sup> AUTOMOTIVE INNOVATION AWARDS COMPETITION**

**TROY, (DETROIT) MICH.** – The Automotive Division of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE®) International today issued a *Call for Executive Nominations* for its 37<sup>th</sup>-annual ***Automotive Innovation Awards Competition & Gala***. While SPE's ***Automotive Innovation Awards Competition*** has always recognized the teams – made up of OEM, tier integrator / molder, toolmaker, and materials supplier – that make innovation possible in automotive plastic components, since the year 2000 the event has also honored outstanding leadership among automotive and plastics industry executives. The Automotive Division is currently seeking nominations for executives in three award categories.

The **Lifetime Achievement Award** recognizes the technical achievements of automotive industry executives whose work (in research, design, and engineering, etc.) has led to significant integration of polymeric materials in vehicles. First given in 2000, past winners of the award include:

- J.T. Battenberg III, former chairman and chief-executive officer of Delphi;
- Bernard Robertson, executive vice-president of DaimlerChrysler;
- Robert Schaad, chairman of Husky;
- Tom Moore, retired vice-president, Liberty and Technical Affairs at DaimlerChrysler;
- Mr. Shigeki Suzuki, general manager - Materials Division at Toyota Motor Company; and
- Barbara A. Sanders, director - Advanced Development & Engineering Processes at Delphi Thermal Systems.

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The **Executive Leadership Award** was started in 2004 and honors automotive executives who have demonstrated leadership in integrating polymeric materials on global vehicle platforms and who have been recognized both within the industry as well as in their community as leaders. While this award's recipient may not have been directly involved in fostering technical advances with polymers – as a recipient of SPE's *Lifetime Achievement Award* will have done – the honoree will have led his/her company to profitability, increased marketshare, and been at the helm of new vehicle launches that were considered a commercial success. The award's past recipients include:

- James Padilla, chief-operating officer and president – Global Automotive Operations, Ford Motor Company;
- Tom Edson, retired director – Applied Material and Manufacturing Technology, Advanced Vehicle Engineering at DaimlerChrysler; and
- James McCaslin, president and chief-operating officer at Harley-Davidson Motor Company.

The **Special Recognition Award** acknowledges a person or team that has made important contributions in the automotive plastics arena. The winner may be an individual contributor or may have led a team, and be employed in industry or academics. The area of contribution may be research, education, or engineering. A team may have developed and launched a vehicle of particular interest or a unique new technology. Examples of good candidates for this award include the **Vehicle Development Teams** for plastics-intensive vehicles (first given in 2004 to the team that developed the Porsche Carrera GT supercar); **Chief Engineers** (first given in 2005 to Dave Hill, retired Vehicle Chief Engineer for the Chevrolet Corvette and Vehicle Line Executive for Performance Cars at General Motors, and last year given to Chris Theodore, vice-chairman, American Specialty Cars who is known as the "*Father of the Ford GT*"); **Scientists** who have developed new materials or enabling technologies to allow polymeric materials to work more effectively in transportation-industry applications; and **Educators** who have devoted themselves to advancing awareness and understanding about the benefits of plastic and rubber products.

Executives may self-nominate or be nominated by peers or members of their organizations. They must agree to accept the award in person at SPE's **Innovation Awards Gala**, which is held one evening during the first two weeks of November. More information on the awards is on the SPE Automotive Division website at [www.speautomotive.com/inno.htm](http://www.speautomotive.com/inno.htm).

SPE's *Innovation Awards Gala* is the largest competition of its kind in the world. Dozens of teams made up of OEMs, tier suppliers, and polymer producers submit nominations describing their part, system, or complete vehicle module and why it merits the claim as *Year's Most Innovative Use of Plastics*. This annual event typically draws over 800 OEM engineers, automotive and plastics industry executives, and media. As is customary, funds raised from this event are used to support SPE educational efforts and technical seminars, which will help to secure the role of plastics in the advancement of the automobile.

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*SPE Issues Call for Executive Nominations for 37<sup>th</sup>-Annual Innovation Awards Competition*  
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The mission of SPE International is to promote scientific and engineering knowledge relating to plastics worldwide and to educate industry, academia, and the public about these advances. SPE's Automotive Division is active in educating, promoting, recognizing, and communicating technical accomplishments for all phases of plastics and plastic based-composite developments in the global transportation industry. Topic areas include applications, materials, processing, equipment, tooling, design, and development.

For more information about the *SPE Innovation Awards Gala*, visit the SPE 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.

For more information on the Society of Plastics Engineers International or other SPE events, visit the SPE website at [www.4spe.org](http://www.4spe.org), or call +1.203.775.0471.

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