



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (06/30/07)**

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**SPE® TO GIVE GENERAL MOTORS' JAMES QUEEN ITS  
EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP AWARD THIS NOVEMBER**

**TROY, (DETROIT) MICH.** – James E. Queen, group vice-president for Global Engineering at General Motors Corp. (GM) has been named the 2007 recipient of the prestigious **Executive Leadership Award** by the Automotive Division of the Society of Plastics Engineers International (SPE®). Queen will receive his award at the 37<sup>th</sup>-annual ***SPE Automotive Innovation Awards Gala*** on November 7, 2007 at Burton Manor ([www.burtonmanor.net/](http://www.burtonmanor.net/)) in the suburbs of Detroit.

Started in 2004, the **Executive Leadership Award** honors transportation-industry executives who have demonstrated leadership in integrating polymeric materials on global vehicle platforms and who are recognized – both within their industry as well as in their community – as leaders. Although this award's recipient may not have been directly involved in fostering technical advances with polymers – as recipients of SPE's **Lifetime Achievement Award** 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. Only three previous executives have received this award. These include: James Padilla, chief-operating officer and president, Global Automotive Operations, Ford Motor Company; Tom Edson, director, Applied Material and Manufacturing Technology, Advanced Vehicle Engineering, at Daimler Chrysler; and James. A. McCaslin, president and chief-operating officer at Harley-Davidson Motor Company.

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*GM's Queen to Receive Executive Leadership Award from SPE*  
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“Jim Queen was selected as this year’s recipient because he is the quintessential automotive leader,” explains Brian Grosser returning SPE Automotive Innovation Awards program chair and SPE Automotive Division chair. “As an executive engineer, he has identified opportunities for platform-sharing and *lightweighting* vehicles targeted for global markets. Throughout his career, Jim has shown leadership on value creation and innovation. For example, he championed the successful introduction of the Cadillac CTS performance luxury sedan and now is the production advocate for the Chevrolet Volt electric vehicle with a target launch of 2010. Jim believes that in order to build efficient, profitable global architectures, the engineering organization has to be seamlessly aligned.”

When asked what typifies global success, Queen explained that “The actual goal is to use a standardized process, follow best practices, eliminate redundancies, increase throughput, and leverage the scale that arises from producing many variants off a common architecture around the globe. To do all this, however, required a realignment of GM’s engineering resources. We started down the road to a standardized global engineering structure in 1997. In North America alone this has allowed us to reduce the cost of doing engineering work here 40% and increased our throughput 33%.”

“Jim has unquestionably been a champion for many forward-looking products at GM,” adds Suzanne Cole, president, Cole & Associates and the SPE Automotive Innovation Awards past-program chair. “In fact, it is these products that are beginning to turn the corner on success for General Motors worldwide. Today’s executive automotive leaders have to keep an eye on efficiency, profitability, and the ever-changing tastes of consumers around the globe. Jim has been passionate and instrumental in leading GM’s vehicle engineering team and transforming its operations into a truly global organization. That’s why we felt he was truly deserving of the SPE *Executive Leadership Award*.”

Queen has held the title of group vice president of Global Engineering at GM since April 1, 2007. He also continues to lead GM’s Vehicle Engineering Operations worldwide, a position he assumed responsibilities for in March 2005.

His career with General Motors began in 1977 as a salaried employee-in-training with the Buick Motor Division in Flint, Mich. Prior to joining GM, Queen served with the U.S. Marine Corps from 1971-1977.

Born in Zanesville, Ohio in 1949, Queen earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Aeronautical & Aerospace Engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy (1971) and also has participated in the Amos Tuck Executive Development Program at Dartmouth College in 1990.

Prior to the start of the ***SPE Automotive Innovation Awards Gala***, Queen will be introduced to the media at a short press conference, then honored at a VIP cocktail reception reserved for program sponsors and senior-level automotive executives. The VIP cocktail reception, sponsored by Ticona Engineering Polymers, has been called “One of the absolute best networking opportunities in town” by supplier executives attending the event.

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*GM's Queen to Receive Executive Leadership Award from SPE  
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General Motors Corp. (NYSE: GM), the world's second-largest automaker, was the annual global industry sales leader for 76 years. Founded in 1908, GM today employs about 280,000 people around the world. With global headquarters in Detroit, GM manufactures cars and trucks in 33 countries. In 2006, 9.1-million GM cars and trucks were sold globally under the following brands: Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, GMC, GM Daewoo, Holden, HUMMER, Opel, Pontiac, Saab, Saturn and Vauxhall. GM's OnStar subsidiary is the industry leader in vehicle safety, security and information services. More information on GM can be found at [www.gm.com](http://www.gm.com).

SPE's ***Automotive Innovation Awards Gala*** is the largest competition of its kind in the world and the oldest recognition event in the automotive and plastics industries. 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 600-800 OEM engineers, automotive and plastics industry executives, and media. As is customary, funds raised from the event are used to support SPE educational efforts and technical seminars, which help to secure the role of plastics in the advancement of the automobile.

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 Automotive 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.Aspe.org](http://www.Aspe.org), or call +1.203.775.0471.

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