



SPE[®] AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES CONFERENCE CONDENSES PROGRAM FROM THREE DAYS TO TWO

More Densely Scheduled Show Will Run Longer on Days One & Two to Facilitate Attendees Facing Much Tighter Travel, Budget Restrictions

TROY (DETROIT), MICH. – The organizing committee for the ***SPE Automotive Composites Conference & Exhibition*** (SPE ACCE) announced today that the show will be shortened from three days (two-and-a-half days of programming) to two this year in response to deteriorating conditions in the global automotive industry, which have led to much tighter travel and budget restrictions. Organizers said the event would likely start earlier and run later on the remaining two days of the show (September 15 and 16) if additional time was required to accommodate the technical program.

“Clearly, this industry is going through a very difficult time and we’re in the midst of a necessary period of adjustment,” notes Cedric Ball, marketing projects leader, Ashland Performance Materials and the 2009 SPE ACCE event chair. “Our authors, sponsors, and attendees have been letting us know that the difficult business environment has led to severe travel and budget restrictions at most companies. By packing our conference into a shorter but denser schedule, we hope to make it easier for more people to attend. Those who do attend can be assured of the same high quality of technical presentations, interesting keynote speakers, and lively panel discussions as in the past.” The conference, now in its ninth year, first went to a light schedule on a third day starting in 2005. This is the second year SPE is also offering a special discounted day-rate for the show.

The ACCE typically draws over 400 speakers, exhibitors, sponsors, and attendees from 14 countries on 4 continents with fully one-third indicating they work for an OEM involved in ground transportation or aerospace/aviation. Interestingly, over the past few years, the types of transportation OEMs represented at the show have continued to broaden beyond traditional automotive and light truck, to include agriculture, truck & bus, heavy truck, and aviation. This trend may indicate greater interest in technology sharing among transportation OEMs and suppliers.

Held annually in suburban Detroit, the ACCE provides an environment dedicated solely to discussion and networking about advances in the automotive composites industry. Its global appeal is evident in the diversity of exhibitors, speakers, and attendees who come to the conference from Europe, the Middle East, and Asia / Pacific as well as North America and who represent transportation OEMs and tier suppliers; composite materials, processing equipment, additives, and reinforcement suppliers; trade associations, consultants, university and government labs; media; and investment bankers. The show is sponsored jointly by the SPE Automotive and Composites Divisions.

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 materials, processing, equipment, tooling, design and testing, and application development.

For more information about the SPE Automotive Composites Conference, visit the Composites' Division website at www.4spe.org/communities/divisions/d39.php, or the Automotive Division's website at www.speautomotive.com/comp.htm, 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, or call +1.203.775.0471.

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