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SPE[®] ANNOUNCES THEME, LOCATION, DATES FOR NINTH-ANNUAL AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

***Conference Organizers Issue Call for Papers for September Conference,
Abstracts Due March 27, 2009 and Papers / Presentations Due May 29, 2009***

TROY (DETROIT), MICH. – The organizing committee for the ***SPE Automotive Composites Conference & Exhibition*** (ACCE) today announced the dates, theme, and location for this year's show and issued its annual *Call for Papers*. Now in its ninth year, the ACCE has become the world's leading forum for automotive composites and draws exhibitors, speakers, and attendees from Europe, the Middle East, and Asia / Pacific as well as North America. The event returns **September 15-17, 2009** at the MSU Management Education Center in Troy, Mich., U.S.A.

“With all the interest we saw last year in improving fuel economy, reducing dependency on petroleum fuels, and providing cleaner, greener transportation options,” said Cedric Ball, marketing projects leader, Ashland Performance Materials and the 2009 SPE ACCE event chair, “we felt this year's ACCE should highlight the tremendous benefits composites can offer for reducing mass and creating more aerodynamic styling, while also lowering cost, improving aesthetics, and maintaining safety. To help underline these benefits, we selected *Plug in to Composites* as the theme for this year's show.”

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SPE Announces Details for Ninth-Annual Automotive Composites Conference
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“To that end,” added 2009 ACCE technical program chair, Fred Buck, “We’re actively seeking keynote addresses and session presentations on the use of composites in fuel cells and advanced batteries, and for mass reduction. We’re very excited to announce that Michael Donoughe, executive-VP, Vehicle Engineering and Manufacturing, at Tesla Motors will speak on the company’s composites-intensive, high-performance plug-in-electric *Roadster* at this year’s show.”

Those interested in speaking at this year’s event should submit abstracts by March 27, 2009 to the review committee via ACCEpapers@speautomotive.com. Full papers or presentations are due May 29, 2009. Authors who submit papers (not presentations) in the proper format by the due date will automatically be eligible for consideration for the conference’s *Best Paper Awards*, which will be presented during the event’s opening ceremony.

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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