



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (06/26/09)

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SPE[®] TAKING NOMINATIONS FOR VEHICLE ENGINEERING TEAM AWARD FOR AUTOMOTIVE INNOVATION AWARDS PROGRAM

TROY, (DETROIT) MICH. – The Automotive Division of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE[®]) International today issued a *Call for **Vehicle Engineering Team Award (VETA) Nominations*** for its 39th-annual **Automotive Innovation Awards Competition & Gala**. Any automaker in the world is eligible to nominate its vehicles, there is no cost to apply, deadline for submission is July 31, 2009 and the VETA nomination form (along with competition guidelines and instructions) can be found at www.speautomotive.com/inno.htm.

Unlike other SPE Executive Awards, the **Vehicle Engineering Team Award** recognizes the technical achievements of entire teams comprised of automotive designers and engineers, tier integrators, materials suppliers, toolmakers, and others whose work – in research, design, engineering, and/or manufacturing – has led to significant integration of polymeric materials on a notable vehicle. This is the third time in the last six years that the award has been presented. Previous winners of the award include Porsche AG in 2004 for the '04MY Porsche[®] Carrera GT supercar and Ford Motor Co. in 2008 for the '08MY Ford[®] Flex cross-over utility vehicle.

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SPE Taking Nominations for Vehicle Engineering Team Award
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SPE's *Automotive 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 600-800 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.

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 Competition & Gala*, visit the SPE Automotive Division's website at www.speautomotive.com/inno.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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TROY, (DETROIT) MICH. – In 2008, the Automotive Division of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE®) International honored Ford Motor Co. with a **Vehicle Engineering Team Award (VETA)** for the automaker's new '08MY Ford Flex cross-over utility vehicle (*photo on left*). Ford's Vice-President of Engineering, Paul Mascarenas, who oversees all engineering standards for car, truck, SUV, and cross-over utility vehicles for the company's Ford®, Lincoln®, and Mercury® brands, and who accepted the 2008 award on behalf of the Ford Flex team (*photo on right*) at SPE's annual **Automotive Innovation Awards Gala** said, "We are delighted that Ford Motor Company has been recognized in this way by this Society of Plastics Engineers' award. The whole team worked tirelessly to bring innovative thinking to the Flex project and this honor for the entire engineering team is recognition of the hard work that has gone into the Flex."

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