



ORIG. EQUIP. SUPPLIER ASSOC. FOUNDER, NEIL DE KOKER, IS KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT SPE® AUTOMOTIVE TPO CONFERENCE

TROY, (DETROIT) MICH. – Neil De Koker, founding president and CEO of the Original Equipment Suppliers Association (OESA), headquartered here, will be a keynote speaker at the eleventh-annual **Automotive TPO Global Conference**. Recognized as an industry expert on issues facing the automotive industry with a particular emphasis on customer-supplier relations, De Koker will present his speech, “*The Automotive Industry in Transition: A New Beginning*,” on Monday, Oct. 5, immediately following lunch. SPE’s **Automotive TPO Global Conference** is the world’s leading forum for automotive usage of thermoplastic olefins, and will be held October 4-7, 2009 at the Sterling Inn, Sterling Heights, Mich., a suburb of Detroit.



The OESA was founded in August of 1998 to represent suppliers of components, modules, systems, materials, equipment and services used in and by the original-equipment automotive industry. The organization provides a forum for members to address issues of common interest, acts as the voice for the automotive supply community, and promotes the interests of members. The association currently represents over 400 companies whose global automotive sales total more than \$300-billion USD.

Neil De Koker has spent his entire 46-year career in the automotive industry, including 23 years with General Motors Corp., where he played a lead role in the development and organization of Saturn Corp. Additionally, De Koker spent four years at Magna International serving as senior vice-president, helping to organize and manage the formation of the automotive-systems groups. He has also served as senior vice-president for Tier 2 supplier companies, The Woodbridge Group and MascoTech Inc., and he has also co-owned a corporate communications company focused on automotive customers.

De Koker serves on a number of industry boards, including those of the Automotive Hall of Fame, Kettering University (formerly the General Motors Institute (GMI)), the Center for Automotive Research, and the Japan America Society of Greater Detroit and Windsor. Additionally, DeKoker is a fellow of The Engineering Society of Detroit (ESD), an organization that honored him as an “Outstanding Young Engineer” in 1978. He is also a member of Tau Beta Pi where he was honored as Eminent Engineer in 1990. In 2004, De Koker was awarded the Executive Leadership Award from the Marketing and Sales Executives of Detroit. He received the 2004 Outstanding Alumni Award from the Michigan State University’s Broad College of Business. In addition, he received the 2007 Visionary Leadership Award from the SAE Foundation. Neil De Koker holds a bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering from then General Motors Institute and an executive master’s degree in Business Administration from Michigan State University. He also attended the executive development program at Northwestern University.

For more information about the **SPE Automotive TPO Global Conference**, to view the conference’s schedule of presentations, or to register to attend the event, please visit <http://auto-tpo.com/> or www.speautomotive.com/tpo.htm, or contact the group at +1.248.244.8993, or write SPE Detroit Section, Division, 1800 Crooks Road, Suite A, Troy, MI 48084, USA.