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***SPE® AUTOMOTIVE TPO CONFERENCE FEATURES TOOLING,  
MOLDER TRAINING SESSIONS, FULL TECHNICAL PROGRAM***

**TROY, (DETROIT) MICH.** – The eleventh-annual *SPE® Automotive TPO Global Conference* organized by the ***Detroit Section*** of the ***Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE®) International*** is a month away and the event's technical program is complete with 40 technical presentations, four keynote speakers, an executive management panel, and two networking receptions. Unique this year are two new stand-alone seminars/training programs that should be of high interest to automotive component-suppliers since they focus on teaching molders how to be more productive while working with injection-moldable polymers, and how to use advanced process controls and aluminum tooling. A new day-rate makes it easier to attend just the special training sessions for those with limited budgets or who are unable to be away from work the three days of the conference.

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## Day 1 Highlights

The first day of the show has a single technical session – **Materials Development** – that runs all day. The session is moderated by David Okonski (General Motors Co.) and Steve Davis (LyondellBasell Industries), and consists of 12 presentations highlighting breakthroughs in reinforcement and additive technologies and resin systems. Also featured this day is an opening keynote address by Maurice Sessel, vice-president-Product Engineering, International Automotive Components (IAC) North America, who will speak about “*Interior Challenges*,” plus a lunch keynote given by Neil De Koker, founding president and CEO, Original Equipment Suppliers Assoc., whose topic is “*The Automotive Industry in Transition: A New Beginning*.” The day ends with a networking reception generously sponsored by ExxonMobil Corp.

## Day 2 Highlights

The second day of the conference opens with a keynote by Dr. Nazeer Bhore, senior technology advisor-Corporate Planning, ExxonMobil entitled “*The Outlook for Energy: A View to 2030*.” The morning technical session is the special **Injection Molding & Advanced Process Control Seminar**, moderated by David Okonski, General Motors, and Shane Vandekerckhof of RJG, Inc., who will give the five presentations in this teaching module, one of which includes a laboratory demonstration video linked directly to RJG’s laboratory. Dr. David Cole, chair, Center for Automotive Research, will give the lunch keynote entitled “*The Auto Future: A New Beginning?*” The afternoon starts off with the show’s ever-popular Executive Management Forum (panel discussion) on “*Challenges & Opportunities in the New Automotive Industry*,” led by moderators, Bob Eller (Robert Eller Assoc., LLC) and Ron Price (Global Polymer Solutions). Panel members include executives Matt Carroll (General Motors Co.), Dr. David Cole (Center for Automotive Research), Stephen Dwyer (LyondellBasell Industries), Nand Kochhar (Ford Motor Co.), and Jeff Makarewicz (Toyota Motor Corp.). Next up is the **Applications Development** technical session, which consists of seven presentations and is moderated by Bob Eller and Tom Pickett (General Motors). An evening reception sponsored by SPE will provide further opportunities for networking.

## Day 3 Highlights

During the conference’s last day, two simultaneous sessions will run in parallel tracks: the **Aluminum Tooling for Injection Molding Seminar** (consisting of seven presentations and moderated by Patti Tibbenham of Ford Motor Co.) and **Surface Enhancements** (consisting of nine presentations and co-moderated by Duane Lewis of ExxonMobil and Dr. Rose Ryntz of International Automotive Components). The conference ends at 12:45 p.m.

## **About the Injection Molding & Advanced Process Control Seminar**

The ***Injection Molding & Advanced Process Control Seminar*** is a four-hour session focuses on advanced process control and troubleshooting for the injection-molding process. Taught by RJG employees, the session is designed to help attendees learn how to achieve a competitive advantage in the marketplace. Covered topics include:

- **Polymer Basics: Morphology and Microstructures;**
- **Decoupled Molding Strategies: Separating Fill from Pack;**
- **Troubleshooting the Injection Molding Process: Cause and Effect of Some Common Defects;**
- **Troubleshooting the Injection Molding Process: Defect Focus from Simple to More Advanced;** and
- **Lab Demonstration (via Video Link to RJG's Lab).**

The session concludes with a laboratory demonstration –made possible via a video link to RJG's laboratory in Traverse City, Mich. – that will demonstrate the company's eDART process-monitoring system and provide an interactive learning experience for attendees who will be able to troubleshoot defects produced by the technician running the demonstration. Shane Vanderkerkof of RJG, Inc. will give all presentations.

## **About the Aluminum Tooling Seminar**

The auto industry's long-time emphasis on cost reduction, faster time to market, and higher quality, coupled with the new shift toward lower-volume, niche-vehicle production is creating new opportunities where aluminum tooling may be appropriate for injection-molded components. Developed by manifold supplier, Rich Oles of PSG Plastic Service Group Inc. (PSG) and its partners, the special ***Aluminum Tooling Session*** is an open-format "technical town-hall meeting" that is designed to help teach molders about the pros and cons of production aluminum tooling so they can make better-informed decisions afterwards about the appropriateness of this technology. Speakers will share not only their own best practices but also those of their competitors so the audience gains a more balanced perspective. Session organizers acknowledge that aluminum tooling is not appropriate for every automotive-plastic component so the seminar was designed to maintain a balanced, educational emphasis with strong audience participation encouraged.

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This special module attempts to cover all aspects of aluminum tooling – from prototype to production—and to do so from multiple perspectives: the OEM, tier integrator, mold manufacturer, and material supplier. Topics to be covered include:

- **Plenary Presentation: Aluminum Tooling for Injection Molding of TPO Materials** (by Patti Tibbenham of Ford Motor Co.);
- **Mold Design Improvements, Surface Coatings, Heat Transfer and Part Price Opportunities** (by Robert Beard, an industry consultant);
- **Properties of Aluminum Materials for Injection Molds** (by Dave Wirth of Clinton Aluminum);
- **Designing Production Aluminum Molds** (by Greg Eidenberger, Paragon Die & Engineering);
- **Case Studies of Production Aluminum Tooling** (by Dave Dickerson from DRS Industries );
- **Manifold Considerations: Thermal 2-3D Analysis** (by Rich Oles of PSG); and
- **Lessons Learned in Graining and Repair of Aluminum Tooling for Injection Molding** (by Ron Smierciak, Alcoa).

## About the TPO Conference

Since 1998, the ***SPE Automotive TPO Global Conference*** has highlighted the importance of rigid and flexible polyolefins throughout the automobile – in applications ranging from semi-structural composite underbody shields and front-end modules to soft-touch interior skins and bumper fascia. Polyolefins have been the fastest-growing segment of the global plastics industry for a decade owing to their excellent cost / performance ratio. The polyolefin supply chain has experienced major changes in recent years, which are providing both challenges and opportunities for OEMs and the entire supply community. Two special sessions have been developed this year on *Advanced Process Control and Troubleshooting for Injection Molding* and *Aluminum Tooling for Injection Molding* to help olefin molders better achieve competitive advantages in the global marketplace.

The ***SPE Automotive TPO Global Conference*** is organized each year by a volunteer committee. The conference typically draws over 400 attendees from 20 countries on 4 continents. Roughly 35% of conference attendees work for an automotive OEM, with the balance made up of tier integrators and molders, resin suppliers, equipment OEMs, industry consultants, and members of academia. The event is held annually at the Best Western Sterling Inn ([www.sterlinginn.com](http://www.sterlinginn.com)) in Sterling Heights, Mich.

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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 Detroit Section is active in educating, promoting, recognizing, and communicating technical accomplishments for all phases of plastics and plastic based-composite developments – particularly in the automotive industry. Topic areas include applications, materials, processing, equipment, tooling, design, and development.

For more information about the ***SPE Automotive TPO Global Conference***, to view the conference's program, or to register to attend the event, please visit <http://auto-tpo.com/> or [www.speautomotive.com/tpo.htm](http://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. For more information on the Society of Plastics Engineers International or other SPE events, visit the SPE website at [www.4spe.org](http://www.4spe.org), or call +1.203.775.0471.

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