



SUPPLIER BANKRUPTCY & CONSOLIDATION IS TOPIC OF PTRM KEYNOTE AT TWELFTH SPE® AUTOMOTIVE TPO CONFERENCE

On Tuesday morning, October 5, the **SPE® Automotive TPO Global Conference** will begin with a keynote by Dietmar Ostermann, director and Global Automotive Practice leader, PRTM Management Consultants, who will discuss the timely topic of *“Bankruptcy & Consolidation in the Global Automotive Supply Industry.”* Ostermann’s talk will draw from results of a soon-to-be-released 2010 PRTM study summarizing over 500 global suppliers worth \$2-trillion USD in revenues. The study provides insights into the consolidation and restructuring activities in the global automotive-supply industry and forecasts industry restructuring activity while identifying suppliers likely to be acquired, or to acquire, divest, or fail. Reportedly, the study has already been broadly quoted in global media outlets.



“Fundamental changes in the North American automotive industry, the still-fragile situation in Europe, and the unprecedented pace of growth in the Chinese auto industry are amplifying the need for automotive suppliers to rapidly adapt their businesses,” notes Ostermann. “The number of annual automotive supplier bankruptcies has more than doubled since 2007, and more high-profile U.S. Global 100 suppliers are financially distressed, so expect a consolidation wave to follow in 2010. Don’t be surprised to see several Chinese suppliers be among the top global suppliers when this situation has settled out. The suppliers who are faring best in turbulent times are those that are diversified.”

Ostermann has held his current position since 2008, focusing on automotive OEMs and suppliers in Europe, North America, as well as Asia. Previously, he was PRTM’s senior director-Automotive Industrial Equipment Industries, as well as co-leader of the company’s Private Equity & Large Enterprise Profitability Practice. During this time, he also served on PRTM’s governance committee (board of directors). He joined the company in 2005.

For 17 years prior to joining PRTM, Ostermann consulted for A.T. Kearney, holding a number of positions, including North American Automotive practice leader (1996-1997), managing director-Germany (1997-2000), managing director-Europe (2000), he was a vice-president for 10 years, and from 2000-2003, he served as CEO. During 2000-2003, Ostermann also served on the board of management for EDS Corp., which owned A.T. Kearney at the time. He has previous industry experience working with BMW AG and Mercedes-Benz in manufacturing engineering, product costing, and complexity management. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in Business and Engineering from the University of Hamburg and an M.S. degree in Industrial & Systems Engineering from the University of Southern California. .

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. Three special sessions have been developed for this year’s conference to help processors and end users learn about the latest technologies available from the rapidly changing world of automotive olefins. These include: *Thermoforming* (returning for the first time since 2008), and completely new sessions on *Polypropylene Compounding* and *Olefin-Based Thermoplastic Elastomers & Vulcanizates (TPEs & TPVs)*.

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) in Sterling Heights, Mich.

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 , or contact the group at +1.248.244.8993, or write SPE Detroit Section, 1800 Crooks Road, Suite A, Troy, MI 48084, USA.

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