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Media Contacts:

Peggy Malnati, SPE Auto. Div. Comm. Chair
Malnati & Associates
Phone: +1.248.592.0765
eMail: media@speautomotive.com

SPE® AUTO TPO SHOW FEATURES STRONG TECHNICAL PROGRAM, EMPHASIS ON SUSTAINABILITY, EFFICIENCY

TROY, (DETROIT) MICH. – Preparations for the thirteenth-annual ***SPE® Automotive TPO Global Conference***, the world's leading automotive polyolefins forum organized by the **Detroit Section** of the **Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE®) International**, is nearly done and, thanks to a recovering global automotive market, a strong technical program is shaping up for the two-and-a-half-day annual event. Four keynote speakers, a panel discussion, two networking receptions, and special new technical sessions on ***Polyolefin Foams and Advances in Process Developments*** and ***Automotive TPOs/TPEs*** join traditional sessions on ***Materials Development, Surface Enhancements, and Process Enhancements, and Applications Development.***

Technical program chair, Norm Kakarala, senior technical fellow, Inteva Products LLC, notes, "This year's technical program features more than 40 talks from all sectors of the automotive plastics industry – from OEMs and molders to materials, additives, and reinforcement suppliers, to universities – and we've seen increased participation from our colleagues in Europe and Asia. As our industry steps up to the challenge of higher fuel efficiency and greater sustainability, plus competing in a global marketplace, there is considerable growth opportunity for polyolefins. To highlight this, we've added two new sessions this year. ***Polyolefin Foams*** will cover sheet foams and cellular plastics that increasingly are being used on vehicle interiors to reduce weight and save process steps. ***Automotive TPO/TPEs*** will examine new materials and processes for body/glazing seals, interior skins, wire & cable, airbag doors, and shifting requirements for underhood components. As always, our program emphasis is on providing practical information and highlighting emerging trends impacting this industry."

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Thirteenth-Annual SPE TPO Conference Returns with Strong Technical Program
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Conference festivities begin Sunday evening, October 2, as the SPE Detroit Section welcomes sponsors and exhibitors who are setting up their displays before the conference begins with a networking reception that runs from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Monday, October 3, 2011: Day 1 Highlights

After opening remarks by 2011 ***SPE Automotive TPO Global Conference*** co-chair, Bill Windscheif, Advanced Innovative Solutions, Ltd., the event's first keynote address – *Global Automotive Light-Weight Marketing, Where Do We Go from Here?* – will be given by Jeff Schuster, executive director, J.D. Power and Associates. This will be followed by brief comments by 2011 technical program chair, Norm Kakarala, Inteva Products LLC, on the event's technical program, and then the ***Materials Development*** session will begin. Moderated by Patricia Tibbenham, Ford Motor Co. and Neil Fuenmayor, LyondellBasell Industries, the day-long technical session will start with a plenary presentation by Todd Glogovsky, LyondellBasell Industries on *Automotive Thermoplastic Polyolefins: Challenges and Opportunities* and will be followed by 10 presentations throughout the morning and afternoon. Topics include:

- *High-Flow, Fast-Cycle Time TPO with Improved Appearance* (Jeff Valentage, ExxonMobil Chemical Co. and 2011 conference co-chair);
- *New Polypropylene Beta Nucleation Technology for Improving Impact-Stiffness Balance of Neat & Talc-Filled PP and TPO Parts* (Philip Jacoby, Mayzo);
- *Advanced Additive Technologies for Polypropylene-Based Automotive Applications* (Takahiro Horikoshi, ADEKA Corporation);
- *Sustainability in Automotive with PP Compounds* (Harry Daalmans, SABIC Innovative Plastics);
- *Using Recycled Tire Rubber in Unique Polyolefin Compounds* (Paris Stetkiw, ACI);
- *Technology Trends in Movement of TPOs and TPVS to Reactor Made Metallocene Polyolefins* (Balaji Singh and J. N. Swamy, Chemical Market Resources, Inc.);
- *Innovative Polypropylene Material Concepts for Lightweight Interiors with Improved Surface Quality* (Robert Gubo, Boreallis);
- *New Generation of Sustainable and Innovative Talc Products for Automotive TPO* (Fredric Jouffret, Imerys Talc);
- *Quantitative Machine Vision Assessment of Scratch Visibility of Textured TPO Surfaces* (Noah Smith, Surface Machine Systems and Texas A&M University); and
- *Correlation Between Constitutive Behavior and Scratch Visibility Resistance of Polymers - A Finite Element Parametric Study* (Mohammad Motaher Hossain, Texas A&M University).

After lunch, a second keynote entitled *Polyolefins are a Sustainable Solution* will be presented by Tom Henry, global automotive business manager, ExxonMobil Chemical Co. The day ends with an open networking reception sponsored by ExxonMobil Chemical Co. to which all conference participants are invited.

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Tuesday, October 4, 2011: Day 2 Highlights

The second day of the conference opens with a keynote by Leon Jacobs, Polypropylene (PP) global business director, SABIC Innovative Plastics on *The Opportunities & Challenges of a Globalizing Automotive Industry*. Immediately following this talk, a half-day session of six papers begins on **Advanced Polyolefin Compounds**, moderated by Mike Balow, Asahi Kasei Plastics North America and Sassan Tarahomi, IAC. Topics include:

- *Next Generation Polypropylene Compounds* (Ramesh Iyer, Mike Balow, and Deen Chundury, Asahi Kasei Plastics N.A. Inc.);
- *Polypropylene-Glass Fiber Compounding Technology for Cost Effective PA Replacement Providing Fuel Economy and Production Efficiency* (Thomas Wagner, Borealis);
- *Recycled Glass Powder as Filler in Green Products* (Joe Keating, Vitro Minerals);
- *Stiffness Comparison of Mica to Other Mineral Filled Polypropylene and Polyamide Composites* (Eric Ernst, Imerys North American Performance Minerals);
- *High Performance Engineered Thermolene P9 Compounds for Automotive Under the Hood Applications* (John Klein, Asahi Kasei Plastics N.A. Inc.); and
- *Lightweight Design with STAMAX Long Glass Polypropylene (LGFPP) Resin* (Marnik Vaes and Warden Schijve, SABIC Innovative Plastics);

After lunch, the event's annual Executive Management Panel Discussion returns for 75 minutes with a theme of *On the Road Again Toward 2016* and will be moderated by Bob Eller, Robert Eller Associates LLC and Ron Price, Global Polymer Solutions. Immediately following the panel discussion, two concurrent technical sessions will begin. The first session, **Automotive TPOs/TPEs**, moderated by Bob Eller and Jeff Valentage features six presentations on the following topics:

- *TPEs and TPOs Exploring the Global Automotive Interface* (Bob Eller, Robert Eller Associates LLC);
- *Thermoplastic Elastomers - Formulating in Performance for Today's Demanding Applications* (Jeff Davis, Dave Patel, Comtrex LLC);
- *Weight Reduction Potential in Automotive Sealing Systems* (Jeff Valentage, ExxonMobil Chemical Co.);
- *Development of New Corner Molding TPV Material for Automotive Doorseals* (Noriyoshi Oono, JSR Corp.);
- *Material Innovations for Environment and Cost Benefits in Airbag Covers* (Kazuyuki Matsunaga, Sumitomo Chemical Co. Ltd.); and
- *New Possibilities with Highly Filled Vistamaxx™ Polypropylene-Based Elastomers* (Felix Zacarias, ExxonMobil Chemical Co.).

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The second concurrent session on Tuesday afternoon, **Surface Enhancements**, will be moderated by Rose Ryntz, International Automotive Components (IAC) and also features six presentations on the following topics:

- *The Use of TPOs in Interior Aesthetic Applications* (Rose A. Ryntz, IAC);
- *Urethane Paint Protection Films Serve (PPF) as an Effective Protection Agent Against Stone and Other Small Road Debris Impingement* (Michael Merwin, FLEXcon);
- *Novel Wetting Measurements for Quality Assurance of TPO Surface Treatment Processes* (Giles Dilligham, Brighton Technology Group, Inc.);
- *New Approaches Using Atmospheric Plasma Technologies for TPO Applications* (Bob Neumann, Enercon Industries);
- *New Experimental Blends with Superior Scratch and Mar, Stickiness, Fogging and Light Stability Performance for Interior TPO Resins* (Nikolas Kaprinidis and Kristin Poljan, BASF Corp.); and
- *Value of NOR HALS in UV Stabilization for Automotive Applications* (Nikolas Kaprinidis, BASF Corp.).

The evening will end with a networking reception sponsored by SABIC Innovative Plastics, to which all conference participants are invited.

Wednesday, October 5, 2011: Day 3 Highlights

The conference's last day begins with a keynote address on *CAFE Requirements: Lightweighting for Improved Energy Efficiency* by Dagmar van Heur, vice-president-Automotive at Styron LLC. Immediately following the talk, two parallel technical sessions will begin. The first, **Polyolefin Foams and Advances in Process Developments**, will be moderated Dave Okonski, General Motors Co. and Suresh Shah, Delphi Corp. and features six presentations.

- *Invited Plenary Presentation: State-of-the-Art TPO Foaming Technology in Extrusion and Injection Molding* (Chul B. Park, director, Micromolecular Plastics Mfg. Lab., Dept. of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, University of Toronto);
- *Understanding Cost Savings with Chemical Foaming Agents* (Peter Schroeck, Reedy International Corp.);
- *Effective Application of Global Specifications and Shrinkage Variation vs. Processing Conditions* (Charles Buehler, David Okonski, Kristina Baldwin of General Motors Co. and Jane Horal, LyondellBasell Industries);
- *New Crosslinked Olefin Foams for Soft Touch Automotive Interior Trim Applications* (Jesse Baldwin, Toray Plastics (America) Inc.);
- *Aluminum Mold Tooling for Polyolefin Applications in the Automotive Industry* (David A. Okonski, General Motors Co., Jane Horal, LyondellBasell, and Ron Smierciak, Alcoa Forgings and Extrusions); and
- *How Cosmetic Issues Associated with Sequential Filling can be Eliminated through Advanced Valve Gate Control* (Bill Rousseau, Synventive Molding Solutions).

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The second session on **Applications Development** will be moderated by Tom Pickett, General Motors Co. and Tom Traugott, Advanced Composites and also features six presentations:

- *Evolution of Automotive Exteriors and Next Generation TPO Challenges* (Chris R. Davey, ExxonMobil Chemical Co.);
- *CO2 Reduction by Lightweighting of Plastic Car Parts with Low Density TPO Compounds* (Wouter Reyntjens, Milliken & Co.);
- *Fluid Assist Injection Molded Parts and Applications with FibreTuff, a Natural Fiber Composite* (Robert Joyce, Innovative Plastics and Molding);
- *Pre-Applied Latent Reactive Hot Melt Adhesives: Interior Automotive TPO Applications* (Nicole O'Brien, Dominik Fuhrer, nolax AG);
- *Evaluating the Scratch Package Effectiveness After Solar Aging* (Dave Helmer, General Motors Co.); and
- *Optimization of Scratch Resistance for Molded in Color Interior Thermoplastic Olefin Injection Molded Plastics Part II* (Renee Hotton, General Motors Co.).

The 2011 SPE Automotive TPO Global Conference ends at 11:45 a.m. The event's preliminary technical program is at <http://auto-tpo.com>.

Sponsorship

Invaluable support for the 2011 event has been provided by: **Platinum-Level Sponsors**, Advanced Composites*, ExxonMobil Chemical Co.* and SABIC Innovative Plastics*; **Gold-Level Sponsors**, CIMBAR Performance Minerals*, The Dow Chemical Co.*, Imerys Talc*, International Automotive Components (IAC) Group*, Inteva Products LLC, LyondellBasell Industries*, Milliken & Co.*, Mitsui Plastics, Inc.*, Mytex Polymers U.S. Corp.*, NYCO Minerals*, Robert Eller Associates LLC*, Styron LLC*, Sumitomo Chemical America, Inc., and Washington Penn; **Exhibitors**, Adchem Corp., Americhem, Inc., Asahi Kasei Plastics North America, Inc., A. Schulman, BASF Corp., Borealis AG, Brentwood Industries, Inc., BYK Gardner USA (A Member of Altana), Chem-Trend, Detroit Testing Laboratory, Inc., Evonik Industries AG, Flint Hills Resources, IMI Fabi LLC, JSR America, Macro-M, Nobel Polymers, Premier Material Concepts (PMC), Reliable Analysis, Inc., Spartech Corp., Surface Machine Systems, LLC, Techmer PM, and United Paint & Chemical Corp.; **Coffee-Break Sponsor**, Formosa Plastics Corp., U.S.A.; **Media / Association Sponsors**, Automotive Design & Production magazine, Automotive NewsWire, China Plastics & Rubber Journal and China Plastics & Rubber Journal International magazines, Modern Plastics India Magazine, Plastics Engineering magazine, Plastics Technology magazine, Plaspec Global Plastics Selector, Polymotive magazine, Rubber World magazine, TPE magazine, and Ward's AutoWorld magazine.

(*Denotes sponsor is also an exhibitor)

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About the Automotive TPO Global 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. Throughout that time, polyolefins have been the fastest-growing segment of the global plastics industry owing to their excellent cost / performance ratio. The show typically draws over 400 attendees from 20 countries on four continents who are interested in learning about the latest in rigid and elastomeric thermoplastic polyolefin (TPO) as well as thermoplastic elastomer (TPE) and thermoplastic vulcanizate (TPV) technologies. Fully a third of conference attendees say they work for a transportation OEM, and roughly 20% work for a tier integrator / molder, with the balance representing materials or reinforcement suppliers, equipment OEMs, industry consultants, media, and members of academia. As such, the event offers attendees a rich environment in which to network and explore the latest developments in materials, processing, and applications for these versatile families of thermoplastic resins.

Traditional technical sessions on *Materials Development*, *Polypropylene Compounds*, *Applications Development*, and *Surface Enhancements* are planned for this year's program, as well as new sessions on *TPO / TPE Interfaces* and *Polyolefin Foams & Advances in Olefin Processes*. The event will be held at the Detroit-Marriott-Troy hotel (<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/dtttt-detroit-marriott-troy/?clusterCode=MW1>).

About SPE®

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 composites 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 evolving technical program, or to register to attend the event, please visit <http://auto-tpo.com> or <http://speautomotive.com/tpo.htm>, or call +1.248.244.8993, or write SPE Detroit Section, 1800 Crooks Road, Suite A, Troy, MI 48084, USA. For more information on the Society of Plastics Engineers International, see www.4spe.org, or call +1.203.775.0471.

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