



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (7 March 2012)

Media Contacts:

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

FOUR KEYNOTES HIGHLIGHT CURRENT INDUSTRY TRENDS AT 2012 SPE® AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERING PLASTICS CONFERENCE

TROY, (DETROIT) MICH. – The seventh-annual **SPE® Automotive Engineering Plastics Conference (SPE AutoEPCON)**, to be held Tuesday, **May 1, 2012** at the *Michigan State University Management Education Center* (here, <http://mectroy.com/>), will feature four keynote speakers highlighting important trends currently facing participants in the global automotive-plastics market. The one-day conference, which typically draws 200-250 attendees from North America and Europe and whose theme this year is *Enhanced Performance with Engineering Plastics*, includes technical presentations, exhibits, and ample networking opportunities for those interested in the latest materials, processing, and application uses of engineering thermoplastics and thermosets for ground transportation. Held annually since 2005, **AutoEPCON** is co-organized by the **Detroit Section and Automotive Division** of the **Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE)**.

This year's conference will lead off with a keynote by *David E. Cole, Ph.D.*, chair emeritus, of the Center for Automotive Research (CAR, <http://www.cargroup.org/>) and chair and co-founder of AutoHarvest (<http://autoharvest.org/>), who will give a talk entitled "**The Auto Sun is Rising.**" Cole's topic will provide insights into just how the automotive industry's future is changing for the better.

-more-

SPE AutoEPCON Keynotes Highlight Trends Impacting Automotive-Plastics Market
2-2-2-2

The conference will continue with a second keynote given by *Alan Taub, Ph.D.*, vice-president, Global Research & Development, General Motors Co. (<http://www.gm.com/>), whose topic – **“Advanced Automotive Materials: The New DNA of Personal Mobility”** – will highlight challenges and opportunities faced by the materials industry in light of fundamental changes in the function, design, and propulsion of tomorrow’s automobiles.

Before lunch, a third keynote will be given by *Maria Ciliberti*, Americas business director, Ticona Engineering Polymers (<http://www.ticona.com/homepage>) on the subject of **“The Automotive Renaissance: Re-Inventing Transportation.”** Significant changes are taking place as this industry rethinks the entire concept of personal transportation with greater energy efficiency, new concepts for interior spaces, creative *infotainment* options, and fundamental redesign underway in all systems and subassemblies. This revitalization is having, and will continue to have, a profound impact on how cars are designed, built, and driven.

The afternoon session will open with a keynote on **“Material and Supplier Selection: Global Challenges and Evolving Expectations,”** presented by Kathy Minnich, manager, Materials, Engineering & Testing, at Ford Motor Co. (<http://www.ford.com>). In a competitive global market, many internal and external drivers influence the selection of supplier partners as well as materials for parts. The presentation will provide an overview of these drivers and probe the evolving set of expectations between the OEM materials engineer and materials supplier.

About the SPE® Automotive Engineering Plastics Conference

First held in 2006 by the Detroit Section and Automotive Division of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE), **AutoEPCON** features 14+ technical presentations in multiple technical tracks and keynote addresses to highlight the latest advances in materials technology, predictive engineering, process enhancements, and application developments for thermoplastic and thermoset engineering plastics for the automotive industry. Exhibits are also on display throughout the event and a networking reception will conclude the day.

The conference annually draws 200-250 attendees from North America and Europe, with close to half reporting they work for automakers or tier suppliers. The conference focuses on the most pressing auto industry needs for lighter weight, more cost efficient and higher performing material applications for vehicle electrification, turbocharging, and a host of other technologies that will be required to meet fuel economy and vehicle performance standards worldwide.

-more-

*SPE AutoEPCON Keynotes Highlight Trends Impacting Automotive-Plastics Market
3-3-3-3*

About SPE®

The mission of SPE 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 and Automotive Divisions, which co-organize the **AutoEPCON** show each year, are active in educating, promoting, recognizing, and communicating technical accomplishments for all phases of plastics and plastic-based composite developments – particularly in the automotive industry.

For more information about the **SPE Automotive Engineering Plastics Conference**, to view the conference's evolving program, or to register for the event, please visit <http://speautomotive.com/emc>, or contact the group at +1.248.244.8993, or write SPE, 1800 Crooks Road, Suite A, Troy, MI 48084, USA. For more information on the Society of Plastics Engineers or other SPE events, visit the SPE website at www.4spe.org, or call +1.203.775.0471.

#

® SPE is a registered trademark of the Society of Plastics Engineers. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (7 March 2012)

Media Contacts:

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

TROY, (DETROIT) MICH. – ***SPE® Automotive Engineering Plastics Conference (SPE AutoEPCON)*** will open with a keynote address entitled “***The Auto Sun is Rising***” by *David E. Cole, Ph.D.*, chair emeritus of the Center for Automotive Research (CAR, <http://www.cargroup.org/>) and chair and co-founder of AutoHarvest (<http://autoharvest.org/>), an open-innovation organization. Previously, Cole was director of the Office for the Study of Automotive Transportation (OSAT) at the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute and an engineering professor at the university. He has been director of the Automotive Hall of Fame and the Original Equipment Suppliers Association, as well as a member of the Energy Engineering Board of the National Research Council, the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Pact Select Panel, the Michigan Strategic Economic Investment and Commercialization Board, the Executive Committee of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, and the Board of Trustees of Hope College. In 2006, he co-chaired the Detroit Renaissance’s “Road to Renaissance” Project. He is active with a number of engineering societies and holds the position of fellow in SAE International, the Engineering Society of Detroit, and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers. He has been honored by groups as diverse as the National Automobile Dealers Association Foundation, Rene Dubos Center, Society of Marketing Executives, *Design News* magazine, University of Michigan, Sweden’s Order of the Polar Star, and France’s National Order of Merit. He is a member of the editorial advisory board of *Popular Mechanics* magazine. Cole also has been actively involved in launching five Ann Arbor, Mich.-based companies and is director of six automotive-related companies. His technical and policy consulting experience includes a variety of assignments for industry, labor, and government and he has spoken to more than 1,000 different groups on automotive issues. He holds Bachelor’s degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Mathematics as well as MSME and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Michigan and has recently received an honorary doctorate from Cleary University.

#

© SPE is a registered trademark of the Society of Plastics Engineers. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

Attention Editors: High-resolution digital photography is available upon request.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (7 March 2012)

Media Contacts:

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

TROY, (DETROIT) MICH. – *Alan Taub, Ph.D.*, vice-president, Global Research & Development, General Motors Co. (GM, <http://www.gm.com/>), will give the second keynote at ***SPE® Automotive Engineering Plastics Conference (SPE AutoEPCON)*** on “***Advanced Automotive Materials: The New DNA of Personal Mobility.***” In his current role, which Taub assumed in 2009, he leads GM’s advanced technical work activity, including seven science laboratories and seven science offices globally. He joined the automaker as executive director-R&D in 2001. Before that, he spent 15 years in R&D at General Electric Co., earning 26 patents and authoring more than 60 papers. He also worked at Ford Motor Co. for eight years. Taub was elected to membership in the National Academy of Engineering in 2006 and serves on the operating council for the United States Council for Automotive Research (USCAR) and the executive steering committee for Driving Research and Innovation for Vehicle efficiency and Energy sustainability (US DRIVE). He also is vice-chair for the Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology (VCAT) advisory board of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) plus serves on advisory boards for four universities. Last year, Taub received the *Acta Materialia* Materials & Society Award and in 2010 was awarded the Charles S. Barrett Medal from ASM International’s Rocky Mountain Chapter. He also is a recipient of the Materials Research Society’s Special Recognition Award (2004), plus the Woody White Service Award and Brown University Engineering Alumni Medal (both in 2002). Taub holds a Bachelor’s degree in Materials Engineering from Brown University and Master’s and Ph.D. degrees in Applied Physics from Harvard University.

#

® SPE is a registered trademark of the Society of Plastics Engineers. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

Attention Editors: High-resolution digital photography is available upon request.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (7 March 2012)

Media Contacts:

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

TROY, (DETROIT) MICH. – After lunch, a third keynote will be given at the **SPE® Automotive Engineering Plastics Conference (SPE AutoEPCON)** by *Maria Ciliberti*, Americas business director, Ticona Engineering Polymers (<http://www.ticona.com/homepage>) on the subject of **“The Automotive Renaissance: Re-Inventing Transportation.”** In her current role, Ciliberti is responsible for Ticona’s business in both North and South America. She has over 20 years’ experience in the plastics industry, having worked for Dow Plastics, GE Plastics, and StaMax, formerly a joint venture between DSM and Owens Corning. In 2005, Ciliberti joined Ticona as manager-Automotive Regional Sales and in 2009 moved to Frankfurt, Germany to become European commercial director at Ticona. She holds a BS degree in Chemical Engineering and an MBA, both from The Ohio State University.

#

® SPE is a registered trademark of the Society of Plastics Engineers. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

Attention Editors: High-resolution digital photography is available upon request.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (7 March 2012)

Media Contacts:

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

TROY, (DETROIT) MICH. – Kathy Minnich, manager, Materials, Engineering & Testing, at Ford Motor Co. (<http://www.ford.com>) will give the final keynote of the 2012 **SPE[®] Automotive Engineering Plastics Conference (SPE AutoEPCON)** during dinner on the topic of **“Material and Supplier Selection: Global Challenges and Evolving Expectations.”** In her current position, Minnich is responsible for a broad scope of engineering and analytical services including management of subject matter experts for corrosion protection, fastener, and materials engineering; operation of the full-service Ford Central Laboratory analytical resource; and oversight of the global materials management enterprise with work streams designed to ensure regulatory compliance and material sustainability. A 33-year veteran of Ford, she has held previous positions in Component Design and Release Engineering, Chassis and Body Materials Engineering, Fastener Engineering, and Corrosion Protection Engineering at the automaker. Minnich also has more than 20 years of personal, hands-on, experience in material selection, processing, durability assessment, and failure analysis for automotive components. She holds a BS degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Detroit – Mercy, an MS degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Michigan, and an MS degree in Industrial Engineering from Wayne State University. She is an active member of the American Society for Materials International, SAE International, and Directors of Industrial Research and Analytical Group.

#

® SPE is a registered trademark of the Society of Plastics Engineers. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

Attention Editors: Medium-resolution digital photography is available upon request.