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**Media Contact:**

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

***SPE® ANNOUNCES EXPANDED PARTS COMPETITION AT 2013  
AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION (ACCE)***

**TROY (DETROIT), MICH.** – The organizing committee for the ***SPE Automotive Composites Conference & Exhibition*** (ACCE) today announced that it will hold its second parts competition at this year's show, **September 11-13, 2013**. Expanding on last year's single award, the 2013 contest will recognize one winner in each of three categories: *Body Exterior* and *Body Interior* (with each winner selected by members of the SPE ACCE committee), and *People's Choice* (selected by conference attendees). Winners will be announced and will receive recognition and a trophy during lunch on the last day of the show.

There is no cost to enter the competition. Any registered conference participant (speakers, sponsors/exhibitors, or attendees) may nominate original equipment or aftermarket composite parts on passenger cars or light trucks in any geography. The only requirement is that parts must be on a vehicle available for commercial sale and the OEM must give permission. Nomination instructions will be found at <http://speautomotive.com/comp.htm>. Preliminary descriptions and photos about the application's innovations are due **August 30** and should be eMailed to [ACCEpapers@speautomotive.com](mailto:ACCEpapers@speautomotive.com). Physical parts must be brought to the SPE ACCE for final review by judges during a formal walk-through at the show.

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*SPE Announces Expanded Parts Competition for 2013 Automotive Composites Conference*  
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Nippani Rao, president, Rao Associates, who is the competition's co-organizer said, "Last year's parts competition was a lot of fun, but judging was difficult since we had only planned to give one award. This year we've expanded the contest and will give awards for both *Body Interior* and *Body Exterior* categories. And to ensure more conference attendees can participate, we have added a third category called the *People's Choice* award so all attendees can vote for their favorite parts. The competition will be an excellent way to showcase this year's theme of *Composites: Lightweighting the Cars of Tomorrow*."

Teri Chouinard, president, Intuit Group and the other competition co-organizer added, "Nominations will be judged on their impact and trendsetting nature, including materials, processing and assembly methods used. Nominations should also emphasize the benefits of design, weight and cost reduction, parts consolidation, functional integration, and improved performance."

#### **About the SPE ACCE**

Held annually in suburban Detroit, the SPE Automotive Composites Conference & Exhibition draws over 700 speakers, exhibitors, sponsors, and attendees and provides an environment dedicated solely to discussion and networking about advances in the transportation composites. Its global appeal is evident in the diversity of exhibitors, speakers, and attendees who come to the conference from Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia / Pacific as well as North America. Fully one-third of attendees indicate they work for automotive and light truck, agriculture, truck & bus, heavy truck, or aviation OEMs, and another 25% for tier suppliers. Attendees also represent composite materials, processing equipment, additives, and reinforcement suppliers; trade associations, consultants, university and government labs; media; and investment bankers. The show has been jointly sponsored by the SPE Automotive and Composites Divisions since 2001. This year's show will be held **September 11-13, 2013** at [The Diamond Banquet & Conference Center at the Suburban Collection Showplace](#), 46100 Grand River Avenue, Novi, MI 48374. For more information about the SPE ACCE, see <http://speautomotive.com/comp.htm>, or <http://compositeshelp.com>, or call +1.248.244.8993, or write SPE, 1800 Crooks Road, Suite A, Troy, MI 48084, USA.

The mission of SPE is to promote scientific and engineering knowledge relating to plastics. SPE's Automotive and Composites Divisions work to advance plastics and plastic-based composites technologies worldwide and to educate industry, academia, and the public about these advances. Both divisions are dedicated to educating, promoting, recognizing, and communicating technical accomplishments for all phases of plastics and plastic-based composite developments, including materials, processing, equipment, tooling, design and testing, and application development. For more information on the Society of Plastics Engineers or other SPE events, see [www.4spe.org](http://www.4spe.org), or call +1.203.775.0471.

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