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ORGANIZERS ANNOUNCE TECHNICAL PROGRAM FOR **SPE[®] TPO** **AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERED POLYOLEFINS CONFERENCE**

TROY, (DETROIT) MICH. – The sixteenth-annual **SPE[®] TPO Automotive Engineered Polyolefins Conference**, the *world's leading automotive engineered-polyolefins forum*, will showcase eight technical sessions with 60 presentations on a wide variety of topics of interest to the automotive plastics community. This year's program features two new sessions (Bio-Based Polyolefins plus Interior Soft Trim: Skins & Foams) that have not been covered by the event before. Organized by the **Detroit Section** of the **Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE)**, this year's technical conference and exhibition returns to the Troy Marriott in the Detroit suburbs from **October 5-8, 2014**.

As Pete Grelle, president, Plastics Fundamentals Group LLC and conference technical program co-chair explains, "Our Auto TPO planning committee begins early each year searching through news outlets, events like SPE's Annual Technical Conference (ANTEC[®]), and by working member contacts to get a good understanding of what constitutes the leading edge in materials, process, and finishing technologies for thermoplastic polyolefin (TPO), thermoplastic elastomer (TPE), and thermoplastic vulcanizate (TPV) materials. Our members then solicit papers on these topics to highlight the evolving benefits offered by these highly versatile classes of polymers. Year after year we receive feedback from the automotive plastics supply chain that our technical programming provides real, practical value to attendees. That's a big reason why our conference keeps growing each year."

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This year, the ***Advances in Automotive Polyolefins*** session, chaired by Neil Fuenmayor of LyondellBasell Industries and Laura Soriede of Ford Motor Co., will feature eight presentations from companies that include Nissan Motor Co. Ltd., Cytec Industries Inc., LyondellBasell Industries, Basell Polyolefinas Ltd., ADEKA Corp., the Dow Chemical Co., and Michigan State University. Covered topics include:

- 1. Enabling TPO to Meet Automotive Needs;*
- 2. Next Generation TPO Materials of High Mold Flowability;*
- 3. Challenges of the Automotive Business in South America;*
- 4. Recycling Painted Polyolefin Parts;*
- 5. Advanced Halogen-Free Flame Retardant Polyolefins;*
- 6. Elastomer Development for High Flow TPOs;*
- 7. Processing of Recycled TPO Clay Nanocomposites;*
- 8. Advancements in Composite Structural Closures.*

Mike Balow, Asahi Kasei Plastics North America, Inc. and Ermanno Ruccolo of Mitsui Plastics, Inc. will chair the ***Rigid Polyolefin Compounds*** session, which has eight scheduled papers from companies that include Georgia Institute of Technology, Asahi Kasei Plastics North America, Inc., Basell Advanced Polyolefins (Suzhou) Co., Ltd., Lotte Chemical Alabama Corp., Wellman Engineering Resins, Borealis AG, and 3M Co. Topics currently scheduled for presentation include:

- 1. Mechanical Characterization Methodologies for TPOs: Is There Room for Improvement?*
- 2. Simulating the Effect of Processing Conditions on the Structural Performance of Glass Fiber Reinforced Composites;*
- 3. Reducing Hazardous Substances in Passenger Cars;*
- 4. New Trend of Car Weight Reduction by Using Long Carbon Fiber;*
- 5. Innovative Value-Added and 100% Recycled Based Polyolefin Alloys, Blends and Compounds and their End-Use Applications;*
- 6. Innovative Glass Fiber Applications: from Pellet to Part;*
- 7. Aspect Ratio Engineering to Enhance Polyolefin Performance Attributes for Structural Application;*
- 8. Functional Additives for Polyolefins.*

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A completely new session on **Bio-Based Polyolefins** will be chaired by Susan Kozora, International Automotive Components (IAC) Group and Dr. Ellen Lee, Ford Motor Co. The session features six presentations from Hyundai-Kia America Technical Center, National Resource Council Canada (NRCC), Weyerhaeuser NR Co., MBA Polymers UK, Magna Exteriors, and Innovative Plastics and Molding Inc. Topics to be covered include:

1. *Bio Based Fillers for Polypropylene for Interior Application;*
2. *Polyolefin Bioplastics and Biocomposites for Automotive;*
3. *Breaking All The Rules (and then some!!);*
4. *Polyolefins Recovered from Shredded End-of-Life Vehicles;*
5. *Concero™: Wood Fibre Polymers for Injection Moulded Automotive Applications;*
6. *Utilizing Thermoplastic BioPolymers for Light Weighting Parts in the Transportation Industry.*

Another new session, **Interior Soft Trim: Skins & Foams** is being chaired by David Helmer, General Motors Co. and Bob Eller, Robert Eller Associates LLC. This session features 12 presentations from speakers at Robert Eller Associates LLC, Benecke-Kaliko AG, Haartz Corp., Asahi Kasei Chemicals Corp., Imerys Talc, Toray Plastics, Sumitomo Chemical Co., University of Toronto, Vi-Chem Corp., Borealis Polyolefine GmbH/ENGEL Austria GmbH, JSR Corp., and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles/LyondellBasell.

1. *Challenges and Opportunities for TPOs and Polyolefins in Automotive Interiors;*
2. *Comfort Aspects for the Automotive Interior;*
3. *Advances in Synthetic Leather;*
4. *Ultra-High Flow TPV SUNVIEO™ for Automotive Interiors;*
5. *Mistrocell®, A New Effective Nucleating Agent in TPO Foamed Formulation;*
6. *Next Generation of New and Improved Soft Foams for Automotive Interiors;*
7. *Introduction of Highly Functionalized TPE;*
8. *Expanded Thermoplastic Polyurethane Beads: Thermal, Foaming and Sintering Behaviors;*
9. *New TPEs Based on Multiple Elastomeric Phase;*
10. *New PP Development Combined with Advanced Foaming for State of the Art Light Weighting;*
11. *Bonding Properties and Structures Between TPVs and EPDM Vulcanizates for Automotive Profiles;*
12. *CAE-Assisted Design of Instrument panels: Material Testing and Modeling for the Prediction of Laser Scoring Line Behavior in Airbag Deployment.*

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Dr. Rose Ryntz of International Automotive Components (IAC) Group and Jim Keller of United Paint Co. are chairing the **Surface Enhancements** session, which features eight speakers from Croda International Plc, IAC Group, Inhance Technologies, Braskem, Eastern Michigan University, Clariant, and Plasmatrete USA, Inc.

1. *Novel Saturated Slip Additive with Superior Oxidative Stability;*
2. *The Use of IOT in Automotive;*
3. *Using Reactive Gas Technology to Enhance Surface Properties of TPO;*
4. *TPO Scratch & Mar Predictability by Simulation;*
5. *Polypropylene Impact Copolymers for Improved Surface Aesthetics: Rheological Characterization and Testing;*
6. *Emerging Technologies in Coatings;*
7. *Combining MuCell and Decompression Molding to Excel in Automotive Light Weighting, and Open and Low Pressure Plasma Technologies.*

John Haubert, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and Normand Miron of Washington Penn Plastics Co., Inc. are chairing the **Lightweight Polyolefin** session, which will feature contributions from eight organizations: Braskem; American Chemistry Council -Plastics Div., Washington Penn Plastics Co., Inc., LyondellBasell, SABIC, Imerys Talc, Unique Tool & Gauge Inc., and Milliken & Co.

1. *Mineral Filled Polypropylene for Lightweighting Automotive Compounds;*
2. *Plastics and Polymer Composites Technology Roadmap for Automotive Markets;*
3. *Weight Reduction in Automotive Polyolefin Compounds Using Alternative Reinforcing Agents;*
4. *New Generation Light Weight PP Compounds Redefine Interior Performance and Weight Savings Potential;*
5. *All-Plastic Tailgate Design: Maximizing Weight Savings, Functionality and Styling Freedom;*
6. *Compounding with Mica to Reduce Noise and Vibration in TPOs;*
7. *Aluminum Tooling for High Volume Automotive Applications: Lessons Learned and Best Practices;*
8. *Newest Developments in Light Weighting, CLTE, Stiffness/Impact, Performance, and Shrinkage Control for Automotive Compounds through the Use of Additive and Filler Technologies.*

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The ***Adhesives and Coatings for TPOs*** session, chaired by Dr. Pravin Sitaram of Haartz Corp. and Hoa Pham of Avery Dennison Corp., features five presentations from Jowat AG, PhibroChem Animal Health Co., Avery Dennison Corp., Bostik, Inc., and Lord Corp. Presenters will cover the following topics:

1. *Latest Improvements in Hot Melt Adhesives;*
2. *Primerless Adhesives for Non-Polar Substrates;*
3. *Pressure Sensitive Adhesive for Automotive Applications;*
4. *Hot Melt Polyolefin Adhesives for Automotive Applications;*
5. *Adhesive Systems for Bonding Lightweighting Substrates.*

The last session, ***Thermoforming of TPO Materials***, is chaired by Ed Bearse, Advanced Plastics Consultants and Rob Philp of A. Schulman and will feature six speakers from Mytex Polymers U.S. Corp., Arkema Inc., Wilbert Plastic Services, Monark Equipment Technologies Co., and A. Schulman. Topics to be covered include:

1. *A New Glass Fiber Reinforced Thermoforming TPO;*
2. *Enhance Heavy-Gauge Thermoformed Products with Solarkote® T Acrylic Capstock System;*
3. *Thermoformed Twin Sheet Parts for Transportation;*
4. *Advances in Thermoform Machinery;*
5. *New Caps for Extruded Sheet;*
6. *High Gloss Molded In-Color Exterior Thermoformed Parts for Hyundai.*

As Dr. Norm Kakarala, retired, Inteva Products LLC and conference technical program co-chair added, "For this year's conference, we've assembled a solid program featuring rigid and elastomeric TPOs and TPEs for interior and exterior applications in passenger vehicles. The focus is on how these materials reduce weight and cost, enhance aesthetics and haptics, offer greater molding and forming efficiencies, and generally help automakers do more with less. These are very important and desirable properties at a time when OEMs are working extremely hard to meet pending fuel-efficiency and greenhouse-gas emissions targets. Given our significantly expanded exhibit area and excellent technical program, we expect this year's show to draw even larger crowds than in 2013."

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Record-breaking support for the 2014 SPE TPO conference is being provided by: **Platinum-Level Sponsors:** Advanced Composites, Inc. (also Tuesday lunch sponsor)*; ExxonMobil Chemical Co. (also Monday reception sponsor)*; and SABIC (also Tuesday reception sponsor)*; Sumitomo Chemical America, Inc. (also Monday lunch sponsor)*; **Gold-Level Sponsors:** Asahi Kasei Plastics North America, Inc.*; Benecke-Kaliko AG*; Borealis AG*; Braskem*; CIMBAR Performance Minerals (also Monday afternoon break sponsor) *; The Dow Chemical Co.*; Imerys Talc*; Inteva Products LLC; LyondellBasell Industries (also USB drive sponsor)*; Milliken & Co.*; Mitsui Plastics, Inc.*; Multibase, a Dow Corning Co.; Mytex Polymers U.S. Corp.*; NYCO Minerals*; O'Sullivan Films; PolyOne*; Robert Eller Associates*; Styron LLC; Trinity Resources*; and Washington Penn Plastics Co., Inc. *; **Exhibitors:** 3M Advanced Materials ADDIVANT USA, LLC; Addcomp North America, Inc.; Adell Plastics Inc.; Albis Plastic Corp.; Americhem, Inc.; Arctic Minerals, LLC; A. Schulman (also Tuesday afternoon break sponsor); Branson Ultrasonics Corp., a Business of Emerson Electric Co. (also totebag sponsor); BYK-Gardner USA (a member of Altana); CAE Services Corp.; Croda International Plc (also lanyards sponsor); Datacolor; Elastron Kimya San. Tic. A.S.; Element Materials Technology; Engel; Entec Polymers; FLEXcon; Flint Hills Resources; Haartz Corp.; IMI Fabi LLC; Inhance Technologies; Jowat AG; JSR Corp.; Kal-Trading Inc.; Lotte Chemical Alabama Corp.; Monark Equipment Technologies Co.; National Resource Council Canada (NRC-CNRC); Neutrex, Inc.; Nexeo Solutions; Noble Polymers; NWP, Inc.; Plasmatreat US LP; PolyAd Services; Reliable Analysis, Inc.; RheTech, Inc.; Songwon; Specialty Minerals; Strukol Company of America; Techmer PM; Unique Tool & Gauge Inc.; United Paint & Chemical Corp.; and Wellman Engineering Resins; Weyerhaeuser NR Co.; International Automotive Components (IAC) Group (Tuesday afternoon break sponsor); **Media & Association Sponsors:** Automotive Design & Production magazine; AutoFieldBlog.com; Automotive NewsWire; China Plastics & Rubber Journal and China Plastics & Rubber Journal International magazines; Global Automotive Lightweight Materials Conference; Industrias Plásticas; Modern Plastics India; Noticiero del Plástico; Plaspec Global Plastics Selector; Plastech; Plastics Engineering magazine; Plastics Technology magazine; Plastics: The Global Application Medium; PrototypeToday.com; Reciclado y Plásticos; TheMoldingBlog.com; TPE magazine; and WardsAuto.com.

(*Denotes sponsor is also an exhibitor)

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About the Auto TPO Conference

Since 1998, the ***SPE TPO Automotive Engineered Polyolefins Conference*** has highlighted the importance of rigid and flexible thermoplastic polyolefins (TPOs), thermoplastic elastomers (TPEs), and thermoplastic vulcanizates (TPVs) throughout the automobile – in applications ranging from semi-structural composite underbody shields and front-end modules to soft-touch interior skins and bumper fascia. Engineered polyolefins have been the fastest-growing segment of the global plastics industry for more than a decade owing to their excellent cost / performance ratio. The show typically draws more than 700 attendees from 20 countries on four continents who are interested in learning about the latest in rigid and elastomeric TPO as well as TPE and 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 from materials or reinforcement suppliers, equipment OEMs, industry consultants, and members of academia. A variety of sponsorship packages are available for companies interested in showcasing their products and / or services. The conference is organized by volunteers from the ***Detroit Section*** of the ***Society of Plastics Engineers*** (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-composite developments – particularly in the automotive industry. Topic areas include applications, materials, processing, equipment, tooling, design, and development.

For more information about the ***SPE TPO Automotive Engineered Polyolefins Conference***, see <http://auto-tpo.com/> or <http://speautomotive.com/tpo.htm>, or contact the group at +1.248.244.8993 extension 3, or write SPE Detroit Section, 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.

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