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***SPE[®] ANNOUNCES DATES, LOCATION, THEME FOR FIFTEENTH
AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION (ACCE)***

TROY (DETROIT), MICH. – The organizing committee for the **SPE[®] Automotive Composites Conference & Exhibition** (ACCE) today announced the dates, theme, and location for this year's show and issued its annual *Call for Papers*. Now in its fifteenth year, the SPE ACCE is the *world's leading forum for automotive composites* and draws over 900 exhibitors, speakers, and attendees from 15 countries on five continents. This year's show, whose theme is **Composites: The Next Generation of Lightweighting**, returns **September 9-11, 2015** to The Diamond Banquet & Conference Center at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, Mich. in the Detroit area.

"There's been a lot of talk in the past year about the inroads made by aluminum on notable vehicles like Ford's *F-150* pickups," explains Dale Brosius, chief commercialization officer, Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing Innovation (IACMI) and 2015 SPE ACCE conference co-chair. "However, when I speak with automakers, what they nearly always say is that aluminum is a short-term fix but that composites are the *next generation* of lightweight materials and will become more and more critical the closer we get to the stringent fuel-economy and emissions mandates of 2025."

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SPE Announces Details for 2015 Automotive Composites Conference
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"One of the best things about attending the SPE ACCE is that you quickly learn that composites aren't some exotic material that our industry will use *someday*," adds Fred Deans, chief marketing officer at Allied Composite Technologies LLC and SPE ACCE conference co-chair. "A quick walk around our show floor and visits to our technical sessions highlights just how many different types of composites are already being used on cars and trucks. As the needs of transportation OEMs have changed, the supply base has responded with more efficient materials, faster processes, and more ways to use this incredibly diverse and effective class of materials. It's what keeps this show and this industry lively and exciting."

Those interested in speaking at this year's event should submit **abstracts** by **March 31, 2015** and full **papers or presentations** are due **May 29, 2015** to the review committee via ACCEpapers@speautomotive.com. Authors who submit full papers (not presentations) in the proper format will be considered for the conference's *Best Paper Awards*, which will be presented during the event's opening ceremony.

Held annually in suburban Detroit, the ACCE draws over 900 speakers, exhibitors, sponsors, and attendees and provides an environment dedicated solely to discussion and networking about advances in 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, or aviation OEMs, and another 25% represent tier suppliers. Attendees also work for composite materials, processing equipment, additives, or 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. For more information on the SPE ACCE, see <http://speautomotive.com/comp.htm> or <http://specomposites.com>.

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, visit the SPE website at www.4spe.org.

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