



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (28 May 2015)**  
**SPE-ACCE-04-15**

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**SPE<sup>®</sup> INVITES ENTRIES FOR 2015 ACCE STUDENT POSTER  
COMPETITION SPONSORED BY FAURECIA**

**TROY (DETROIT), MICH.** – The organizing committee for the **SPE Automotive Composites Conference & Exhibition** (ACCE) today issued an invitation for entries on innovative composites technologies for automotive and ground transportation for its annual *student poster competition*. The group also announced that **Faurecia Automotive Exteriors** (Auburn Hills, Mich., <http://na.faurecia.com/en/faurecia-north-america>) will be the competition's 2015 sponsor. Judges made up of media, industry experts, and SPE board members will review all posters with student authors on the first day of the conference. First-, second-, and third-place awards will be presented to winners in graduate and undergraduate categories by Patrick (Pat) Szaroletta, president, Faurecia Automotive Exteriors North America during a special ceremony after lunch on September 10th. This year's SPE ACCE show will be held **September 9-11, 2015** in Novi, Mich. in the Detroit suburbs.

“Innovation is part of Faurecia’s DNA, so supporting the SPE ACCE student poster competition is a natural way for us to encourage innovative thinking in what essentially is the future of our industry,” explained Szaroletta. “We’re proud to be a part of SPE and to showcase the expertise, creativity and ingenuity of these future plastics engineers as they bring their fresh perspectives and new ideas to today’s challenges.”

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Students and their posters will be ranked according to the following criteria:

- Content (student and poster demonstrate clarity of topic, objectives, and background);
- Motivation for research and technical relevance to conference theme;
- Methodology and approach to problem;
- Quality of proposed research results/findings;
- Conclusion are supported by information presented;
- Presentation (display aesthetics are pleasing and there is a logical flow between sections);
- Knowledgeable (presenter has a good grasp of the subject);
- Understandability (poster is effective even without student being present to explain it); and
- Overall rank vs. other posters and presenters.

Since 2008, the SPE ACCE poster competition has been organized annually by Dr. Uday Vaidya, SPE Composites Division board member and education chair, and professor and director-Materials Processing and Applications Development (MPAD) Center, Department of Materials Science & Engineering at University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). He is supported by Dr. Leonardo Simon, professor, Chemical Engineering Department, University of Waterloo and Dr. David Jack, professor, School of Engineering & Computer Science, Baylor University.

Students interested in participating in the 2015 competition should contact Dr. Uday Vaidya at [ACCEposters@speautomotive.com](mailto:ACCEposters@speautomotive.com).

In 2014, four students won the show's annual student poster competition: Sarah Stair, Baylor University and a 2013 SPE ACCE scholarship winner took first place in the graduate category; Siddhartha Brahma, University of Alabama-Birmingham was the second-place graduate winner; while Anup Shastry, Clemson University and Avinash Akepati, University of Alabama-Tuskaloosa tied for the third-place graduate poster award; and Kelly Krumm of Clemson was event's undergraduate winner.

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 and Central America. Fully one-third of attendees indicate they work for automotive and light truck, off-highway, agriculture equipment, 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, see <http://speautomotive.com/comp.htm> or <http://specomposites.com>.

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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](http://www.4spe.org).

Faurecia is the world's sixth-largest automotive supplier, with four business groups: Automotive Seating, Emissions Control Technologies, Interior Systems, and Automotive Exteriors. In 2014, the group posted sales of \$25-billion USD. As of December 31, 2014, the company employed 99,500 people in 34 countries at 330 sites and 30 R&D centers around the world. Its stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), Euronext Paris stock exchange, and trades in the U.S. over-the-counter (OTC) market. In North America, Faurecia had sales of \$6.2-billion USD in 2014 and employed more than 20,000 people at 47 locations in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. Connect with Faurecia North America at [www.facebook.com/faureciaNA](http://www.facebook.com/faureciaNA) and [www.twitter.com/faureciaNA](http://www.twitter.com/faureciaNA).

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**TROY (DETROIT), MICH.** – The organizing committee for the **SPE Automotive Composites Conference & Exhibition** (ACCE) today issued its call for entries for the *student poster competition* at the group's annual show, **September 9-11, 2015** in Novi, Mich. in the Detroit suburbs. The 2015 poster competition will be sponsored by **Faurecia Automotive Exteriors** (Auburn Hills, Mich., <http://na.faurecia.com/en/faurecia-north-america>). Explaining why his company was supporting the competition, Patrick (Pat) Szaroletta, president, Faurecia Automotive Exteriors North America (*shown above*) said, "Innovation is part of Faurecia's DNA, so supporting the SPE ACCE student poster competition is a natural way for us to encourage innovative thinking in what essentially is the future of our industry. We're proud to be a part of SPE and to showcase the expertise, creativity and ingenuity of these future plastics engineers as they bring their fresh perspectives and new ideas to today's challenges." Szaroletta will present plaques to first-, second-, and third-place winners in both graduate and undergraduate categories during a special ceremony after lunch on September 10th. Students interested in participating in the 2015 competition should contact Dr. Uday Vaidya at [ACCEposters@speautomotive.com](mailto:ACCEposters@speautomotive.com).

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