



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (23 April 2016)
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***SPE® ISSUES CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR PARTS COMPETITION
AT 2016 AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION***

TROY (DETROIT), MICH. – The organizing committee for the ***SPE Automotive Composites Conference & Exhibition*** (ACCE) today issued a call for nominations for its fifth-annual parts competition at the group's 2016 conference, **September 7-9** in Novi, Mich. in the Detroit suburbs. Prizes for the *Most Innovative Composites Application* will be awarded in three categories — *Materials Innovation* and *Process Innovation* (selected by media and members of the SPE ACCE planning committee), and *People's Choice* (selected by conference attendees) — with winning teams receiving recognition and a trophy after lunch on the last day of the show.

There is no cost to enter the competition. Any registered conference participant (speaker, sponsor/exhibitor, or attendee) may nominate original equipment or aftermarket composite parts on passenger cars or light trucks from any geography. The only requirement is that parts must be on a vehicle available for commercial sale and that the vehicle producer must give permission. Nomination instructions may be found at <http://speautomotive.com/comp.htm>. Preliminary descriptions and photos about the application's innovations are due **July 30, 2016** and should be eMailed to ACCEpapers@speautomotive.com. Physical parts must be brought to the SPE ACCE for final review by judges on September 7 during a formal walk-through at the show.

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SPE Announces Call for Nominations for 2016 ACCE Parts Competition
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Last year, the *Materials Innovation* award went to the nomination jointly submitted by Bright Lite Structures, LLC and Huntsman Polyurethanes for the carbon composite chassis system on the *Zenos E10* street-legal track car by automaker, Zenos Cars Ltd. The *Process Innovation* and *People's Choice* awards both went to the first composite coil spring on 2015 *Audi A6 Avant 2.0-L TDI Ultra* sedans by Audi AG nominated by Hexion Inc.

In 2014, the *Body Exteriors* award went to Mitsubishi Rayon Co., Ltd., which nominated the carbon fiber-reinforced composite decklid made via the prepreg compression molding process on the *Nissan GT-R* supercar by Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. The event's new *People's Choice* award (chosen by conference attendees) went to then Momentive Specialty Chemicals Inc. (now Hexion Inc.) for its nomination of the lightweight carbon fiber-reinforced composite door structure with Class A appearance on the *Porsche 911 GT Cup supercar* produced by Porsche AG.

In 2013, Plasan Carbon Composites swept the competition in all three categories. The company's nomination of the hood for the *Corvette Stingray* sports car from General Motors Co., produced in carbon fiber-reinforced composites via Plasan's new out-of-autoclave pressure press technology, won the *Body Exterior* category. And Plasan won both *Body Interior* and *People's Choice* awards with its nomination of the engine X-brace on the *SRT Viper* from then Chrysler Group LLC (now FCA US LLC (Fiat Chrysler Automobiles)) produced in autoclave-cured carbon composites.

In 2012, the first year that the SPE ACCE featured a parts competition, Asahi Kasei North America won the *Best Part* award with its nomination of the twin-sheet thermoformed glass-reinforced polypropylene composite on the Ram Box assembly with lid for *Dodge Ram pickups* from then Chrysler Group LLC.

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SPE Announces Call for Nominations for 2016 ACCE Parts Competition
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About the SPE ACCE

Held annually in suburban Detroit, the ACCE draws over 1,000 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. This year's show will be held **September 7-9, 2016** 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://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, see www.4spe.org.

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