

CALL FOR PART NOMINATIONS

Most Innovative Use of Plastics





HISTORY OF THE COMPETITION

The SPE *Automotive Innovation Awards Competition* was started in 1970 to recognize the positive changes that polymeric materials were bringing to the automotive industry, such as weight reduction, parts consolidation, and enhanced aesthetics and design freedom. At that time, many OEM designers and engineers thought of plastics as inexpensive replacements for more “traditional” materials.

To help communicate that plastics were capable of far more functionality than their common use as decorative knobs and ashtrays, members of SPE’s Automotive Division Board of Directors created the *Automotive Innovation Awards Competition* to recognize successful and innovative plastics applications and to communicate their benefits to OEMs, the media, and the general public. Over the years, the competition had the effect of highlighting plastics as an underutilized design tool and also drawing attention to more progressive ways of designing, engineering, and manufacturing automotive components.

From its humble beginnings, the SPE *Automotive Innovation Awards Competition* has grown to be one of the most fiercely contested recognition events in the plastics and automotive industries. And today, polymeric materials are no longer substitutes for more expensive materials, but rather are the *materials of choice* in hundreds of different applications throughout the vehicle. In fact, without plastics, many of the auto industry’s most common comfort, control, and safety applications would not be possible.



HONORING THE YEAR'S MOST INNOVATIVE USE OF PLASTICS

For more than 3-1/2 decades, the SPE Automotive Division's **Automotive Innovation Awards Competition & Gala** has honored the "**Most Innovative Use of Plastics**" in automotive applications. More recently, the event has also recognized outstanding leadership among automotive and plastics industry executives.

Unofficially called the "*Academy Awards¹ of the plastics and automotive industries,*" SPE's **Automotive Innovation Awards Competition & Gala** is the largest competition of its kind in the world and is the oldest and largest recognition event in the automotive and plastics industries. Dozens of teams made up of OEMs, tier suppliers, consultants, and polymer producers work for months to hone submission forms and presentations describing their part, system, or complete vehicle module and

why it merits the claim as the year's "**Most Innovative Use of Plastics.**" An additional *Hall of Fame* category is awarded to parts that have been in continuous commercial production for 15 or more years.

Winners of the **Automotive Innovation Awards Competition** are announced at the **Innovation Awards Gala**, an annual event that typically draws over 800 OEM engineers, automotive- and plastics-industry executives, and media. This glittering evening of celebration honors innovation and the hardworking teams that bring it to market.

As is customary, proceeds raised from this event are used to fund SPE educational efforts and technical seminars, which help to secure the role of plastics in the advancement of the automobile and other forms of transportation.

¹Academy Awards is a trademark of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.



CATEGORIES FOR PART NOMINATIONS

The SPE Automotive Division is currently accepting part, component, and module nominations in these categories:

- ~ **Body Exterior**
- ~ **Body Interior**
- ~ **Chassis / Hardware**
- ~ **Electrical Systems**
- ~ **Environmental**
- ~ **Materials**
- ~ **Hall of Fame**
- ~ **Powertrain**
- ~ **Process / Assembly / Enabling Technologies, and**
- ~ **Safety**

Criteria for the prestigious **Hall of Fame** Category are simply that the application must have been put into production at least 15 years ago and it must have made a significant and lasting contribution to the use of plastics in the automotive industry. It has become increasingly difficult to name a single winner for this honor, since plastics use in vehicles has proliferated so successfully in the past 3-1/2 decades. Unlike the category awards, which only consider applications specifically nominated in a given year, this award considers all plastics applications that have been in continuous use for 15 years or more. The winner is selected from new submissions, a review of past submissions, and any other candidates that the panel deems worthy.

CALL FOR PARTS NOMINATIONS

..... HOW TO SUBMIT A NOMINATION

1. Please go to www.speautomotive.com/inno.htm and download the electronic version of the Nomination Form.
 - ~ SPE prefers that the Nomination Form be filled out electronically and submitted by e-mail. For teams that will be submitting nominations in the **preferred** manner, please select the Excel^{®2} XLS worksheet.
 - ~ For teams that are not able to submit the Nomination Form electronically (e-mailing the XLS worksheet), the **alternate** method for submitting the information is to download the Acrobat^{®3} PDF version of the worksheet, print it out, fill out the form, and then mail or fax it.
2. For each nomination being submitted, fill out a separate copy of the Nomination Form and Innovation Description in the Excel or Acrobat worksheet.
3. Submit the completed form(s) by
 - ~ E-mailing the XLS file to awards@speautomotive.com, or
 - ~ Fax it to Dawn Stephens at +1.248.244.8925, or
 - ~ Mail it to SPE Automotive Division, 1800 Crooks Road, Suite A, Troy, MI 48084 USA
4. Please be sure to check our website (www.speautomotive.com/inno.htm) for a list of key dates for this year's competition, including:
 - ~ Deadline for Submissions;
 - ~ Notification of time & date for presentations;
 - ~ First-Round Presentations to the SPE Automotive Division Board of Directors;
 - ~ Second-Round Presentations to the Blue Ribbon Industry Judging Panel (if a winner from the first-round judging); and
 - ~ Date of SPE **Automotive Innovation Awards Gala**.
5. We hope you will also call Dawn Stephens at +1.248.244.8993 ext. 4 to reserve seats for this year's Gala event.

²Excel is a Registered Trademark of Microsoft Corp.

³Acrobat is a Registered Trademark of Adobe Systems Incorporated.



..... FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the SPE Automotive Division's **Automotive Innovation Awards Competition & Gala** or any of our other programs, please see our website at www.speautomotive.com, or call us at +1.248.244.8993 ext. 4, or write or visit us at SPE Automotive Division, 1800 Crooks Road, Suite A, Troy, MI 48084 USA.