

ENGINEERING LEADERSHIP

SPE® Honors Ford with *Vehicle Engineering Team Award* for Plastics Innovation in Flex™ CUV



Ford Motor Company is being honored tonight with the SPE *Vehicle Engineering Team Award* for the automaker's significant use of innovative plastics content on the new Flex™ cross-over utility vehicle (CUV). The *Vehicle Engineering Team Award* recognizes the technical achievements of teams comprised of automotive designers and engineers, tier integrators, materials suppliers, toolmakers, and others whose work – in research, design, engineering, and/or manufacturing – has led to significant integration of polymeric materials on a notable vehicle. Ford's Vice-President of Engineering,

Paul Mascarenas, who oversees all engineering standards for car, truck, SUV, and cross-over utility vehicles for the company's Ford®, Lincoln®, and Mercury® brands, will accept the award on behalf of the team.

The Ford Flex CUV features a number of innovative plastics applications, many of them industry-firsts, such as the: new Capless Refueling System with Mis-Fuel Inhibitor; industry's largest Satin-Chrome Decklid Appliqué; Injection-Molded Crushable Armrest with Decorative Grab Handle; Integrated Refrigerator / Rear-Floor Console; Integrated Floor Shifter / Front Console with a Recycled SMA Structure; Integrated Roof Shade / Auxiliary AC Duct / Headliner Reinforcement; new Rear-Footwell Ambient Lighting; Long-Glass Polypropylene used in Overhead Consoles; Integrally Molded Energy Absorption Features; use of Expanded-Polypropylene Head Restraint Core; and new Acrylic Appliqués with SecureCode™ Invisible Keypad.

Speaking about the award, Mascarenas said, "We are delighted that Ford Motor Company has been recognized in this way by this Society of Plastics Engineers' award. The whole team worked tirelessly to bring innovative thinking to the Flex project and this honor for the entire engineering team is recognition of the hard work that has gone into the Flex."

