

# **AN INVESTIGATION OF 'GREEN' CLASS A SMC**

*Thomas Steinhäusler & John Young*

*AOC*

*Mike Siwajek*

*Continental Structural Plastics*

*Dan Houston*

*Ford Motor Co.*

## **Abstract**

Saturated and unsaturated polyester resins containing glycols made from renewable or recycled sources are being developed as a way to become less dependent on oil-based glycols. These "new" glycols can be used as a direct replacement for oil-based glycols as long as the purity of a given glycol is consistent from the various sources. Therefore, the polyester can be produced from the source (oil-based or bio-based) that economically makes the best sense at a given market situation. In this study SMC performance of standard-density, Class A, automotive SMC containing polyester resins produced from oil-based glycols will be compared to standard-density, Class A, automotive SMC containing polyester resins produced from renewable-source glycols. The evaluation will include processing, aesthetics and adhesion performance. Finally, a new, low density, Class A automotive SMC containing polyester resins produced from renewable-source glycols will be introduced.