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## **Media Contact:**

Peggy Malnati, SPE Auto. Div. Comm. Chair  
Malnati & Associates  
Phone: +1.248.592.0765  
eMail: [media@speautomotive.com](mailto:media@speautomotive.com)

## **SPE<sup>®</sup> ANNOUNCES DATES, LOCATION, THEME FOR TWELFTH AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION (ACCE)**

**TROY (DETROIT), MICH.** – The organizing committee for the **SPE Automotive Composites Conference & Exhibition** (ACCE) today announced the dates, theme, and location for this year's show and issued its annual *Call for Papers*. Now in its twelfth year, the SPE ACCE has become the *world's leading forum for automotive composites* and draws exhibitors, speakers, and attendees from 15 countries on five continents. This year's event, whose theme is ***Unleashing the Power of Design***, returns **September 11-13, 2012** to the MSU Management Education Center in Troy, Mich., U.S.A.

Creig Bowland, senior research associate at PPG Industries, and the 2011 and 2012 SPE ACCE conference chair said, "With the global automotive industry growing again after several difficult years, and with a host of tough new emissions and fuel-economy standards looming for the industry to meet, interest in lightweight materials like polymer composites is at an all-time high. Fortunately, the composites industry has a broad portfolio representing a wide range of cost, performance, and processing options from which to choose. Whether automakers are working on low volume/performance platforms, or high volume/economy platforms, they will find materials and process options that will meet their needs. And the best way to keep on top of the very latest technology innovations in this field is to attend the annual SPE ACCE show."

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*SPE Announces Details for 2012 Automotive Composites Conference*  
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Those interested in speaking at this year's event should submit **abstracts** by **March 31, 2012** to the review committee via [ACCEpapers@speautomotive.com](mailto:ACCEpapers@speautomotive.com). Full **papers or presentations** are due **May 31, 2012**. Authors who submit papers (not presentations) in the proper format will be considered for the conference's *Best Paper Awards*, which will be presented during the event's opening ceremony.

Held annually in suburban Detroit, the ACCE draws almost 500 speakers, exhibitors, sponsors, and attendees and provides an environment dedicated solely to discussion and networking about advances in the 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, heavy truck, or aviation OEM, and another 25% representing tier suppliers. Attendees also represent 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.

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 about the SPE Automotive Composites Conference, visit the Automotive Division's website at <http://speautomotive.com/comp.htm>, or the Composites' Division website at <http://compositeshelp.com>, or contact the group at +1.248.244.8993, or write SPE Automotive Division, 1800 Crooks Road, Suite A, Troy, MI 48084, USA. 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), or call +1.203.775.0471.

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