



Innovation Description Form for
SPE Automotive Division
"Most Innovative Use of Plastics" Competition

This form will help the nominations committee fully understand and evaluate your nomination. The information will be used for the program guide and awards ceremony. Please complete this form in its entirety. Incomplete or unclear information may result in disqualification of your nomination or placement in a category in which it may not compete well.

- 1) What is the **single most unique or innovative feature** of this nomination?

- 2) Enter other innovative features of this nomination not described in Question 1.

- 3) What plastic forming/molding process is used to produce this part?

- 4) Is this the first time this process was used to produce this type of component?

- 5) Describe the materials, processes, or methods previous used for this application.

- 6) Describe any special tooling innovations required to produce this part.

- 7) Describe any special material developments required.

- 8) Estimate the weight savings achieved versus previous or alternative manufacturing methods (lbs/grams or %)

- 9) Estimate the direct cost saving associated with the application. Specify in \$ or %.

- 10) Estimate the indirect and/or cost avoidance savings associated with the application.

- 11) Does this application result in any **direct** consumer benefit, such as reduced interior noise, higher engine horsepower, etc. If yes, please describe:

- 12) Can this application be translated to other OEM's and/or vehicle lines, or it a unique application.

- 13) Describe any SIGNIFICANT direct safety benefits.

- 14) Describe any SIGNIFICANT direct or indirect environmental benefits.

- 15) Please enter any additional information you believe the nomination committee should consider.



SPE Automotive Division Innovation Awards Program

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If your answer was design related (ie New Cup Holder with Added Functionality), then it probably goes into the Category that best fits the location of the part in the vehicle – **Body Interior, Body Exterior, Chassis/Hardware, Powertrain, or Electrical Systems.**

For the **Aftermarket** category, the part would either be a lower volume option offered through the OEM aftermarket groups, or by an independent third party. This category focuses on how plastics enabled this application to be developed, and the unique benefits realized by the final consumer.

For the **Safety** category, there needs to be a significant advancement in safety, either meeting a new requirement or greatly improving performance versus an existing requirement. Just having a nomination that has safety requirements (almost all parts do) is not enough. For example, “New Material for Air Bag Doors” is NOT a Safety innovation.

For the **Materials** category, this should highlight the application of a NEW material in a given application. The material properties (impact, UV resistance, modulus, etc.) should show significant improvement versus previous materials. For example, “Replacing PA66 with PP” would NOT be a material innovation, unless there was a significant change or development in the PP formulation that allowed it to replace the PA66 material.

In **Environmental**, there should be a demonstrated environmental benefit. This could include design for recycling, new uses of recycled polymers in an application, new post-industrial or post-consumer uses of automotive plastics, etc. Simple or obvious benefits (part is recyclable, mold-in-color eliminated painting) would not justify placement in this category.

The **Process/Assembly/Enabling Technology** category is probably the broadest category. Nominations could include a new or modified molding process, unique assembly methods, or some other new technology that enabled plastics to succeed.

The **Hall of Fame** award will be presented for an innovative application that stood the test of time, being in continuous production for over 15 years. Once nominated, the application will be considered again in following years.

If you are not sure of the category, select the one you believe is the best fit, and enter your suggested alternative category in question 15. The SPE nomination committee will review your nomination, and if necessary, move it to the category in which it would best compete.