FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 11 APRIL 2018

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"THE WORLD'S FIRST CARBON FIBER PICKUP BOX" KEYNOTE ANNOUNCED FOR SPE® ACCE 2018 – AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES CONFERENCE & EXPO

Mark Voss – Engineering Group Manager, Body Structures Advanced Composites And Pickup Boxes, General Motors Co.

Troy, (DETROIT) MICH. – The SPE Automotive Composites Conference (ACCE) team is announcing the keynote "The World's First Carbon Fiber Pickup Box" to be presented at their 18th annual event September 5 - 7, 2018 at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, Mich. Mark Voss, engineering group manager, Body Structures Advanced Composites and Pickup Boxes at General Motors Co. will highlight the innovative and cost-effective material change enabling the development of a 62 pound (28 kilogram) weight savings, 40 percent mass reduction and improved performance with their new "*CarbonPro Box*" on the 2019 MY GMC Sierra Denali. In addition to keynote presentations, The ACCE features approximately 80 technical presentations, three roundtable discussions, and over 100 sponsors with close to 80 exhibits highlighting advances in materials, processes, and equipment for both thermoset and thermoplastic composites in a wide variety of transportation applications. Networking breakfasts, lunches and receptions enhance the value of the event that attracts over 900 attendees worldwide. The Automotive and Composites Division of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE®) jointly produce the ACCE to educate the automotive industry about the benefits of composites in automotive applications.

"Composites – Driving Innovation," is the theme for this year's event reflecting the growing interest automotive OEMs have in the latest composites technologies. The 2018 ACCE is co-chaired by Dr. Alper Kiziltas, Lead Research Scientist, Ford Motor Company and SPE Automotive Div. Vice-Chair & Education Committee Chair and Matthew E. Carroll, Materials Engineering, General Motors Company and SPE Automotive Div. Chair. "I am looking forward to continuing the growth of ACCE and growing applications for composites as a sustainable technology," noted Dr. Kiziltas. "Composites are an ideal material for lightweighting, which helps us to meet challenging emissions and fuel-economy standards by eliminating mass," noted Carroll.

The technical program includes approximately 80 paper presentations (30 min. ea.) organized into the following categories: Advances in Thermoplastics Composites; Virtual Prototyping & Testing; Bonding, Joining & Finishing; Sustainable Composites; Opportunities & Challenges with Carbon Composites; Advances in Reinforcement Technologies; Nanocomposites; Enabling Technologies; Additive Manufacturing & 3D Printing and Advances In Thermoset Composites. The mission of SPE is to promote scientific and engineering knowledge relating to plastics worldwide and to educate industry, academia, and the public about these advances. SPE's Automotive Division is active in educating, promoting, recognizing, and communicating technical accomplishments in all phases of plastics and plastic-based composite developments in the global transportation industry. Topic areas include applications, materials, processing, equipment, tooling, design, and development. For more information see **www.speautomotive.com**. For more information on the ***Society of Plastics Engineers***, see **www.4spe.org**.

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Troy, (DETROIT) MICH. –Mark Voss, engineering group manager, Body Structures Advanced Composites and Pickup Boxes, General Motors Co. will present a keynote on “The World’s First Carbon Fiber Pickup Box” at this year’s SPE Automotive Composites Conference & Expo (ACCE) September 5 - 7, 2018 at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, Mich. in the metro Detroit area. Voss is responsible for leading the team for the engineering execution of all new structural composites applications as well as all global pickup box executions. Prior to his current assignment, he has held a variety of automotive engineering and quality positions. He has successfully led teams responsible for numerous composite panels implemented at GM, starting with the 2004 Anniversary Edition Corvette Z06 hood, the first OEM original equipment carbon fiber painted exterior panel. He led the 2009 Corvette ZR1 carbon fiber panel development and execution, as well as the development of the 2014 Corvette Stingray composite body panels. Voss has received numerous patents related to the execution of carbon fiber and other mass savings technologies. He received a 2008 SPE Award for the ZR1 hood and the 2009 Boss Kettering Award from GM, the highest technical honor bestowed by the company. He received his BSME from the University of Michigan in 1994 and an MSME from Purdue University in 2004.