



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 26 JUNE 2020** Contact: Teri Chouinard, SPE ACCE Comm. Chair 248.701.8003, [teri@intuitgroup.com](mailto:teri@intuitgroup.com)

**SPE® AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION (ACCE) ANNOUNCES**

**TRANSITION TO A VIRTUAL EVENT SEPT. 9 – 11, 2020**

**TROY (DETROIT) MICH.-** The organizing committee for the SPE Automotive Composites

Conference & Exhibition (ACCE) today announced the transition from an in-person event to a

virtual platform for its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary event. The virtual ACCE will be held Sept. 9 – 11, 2020

(the dates it was originally planned for) and will include keynotes, panel discussions, technical sessions, sponsorship and

exhibit options, and online networking opportunities. Continuing the ACCE tradition of supporting students

pursuing careers in the automotive composites industry, the annual ACCE and Dr. Jackie Rehkopf

scholarships and Student Poster Competition awards will be announced at the event.

“We were looking forward to celebrating 20 years of advancing transportation with innovative

composites technologies in person,” said Dr. Alper Kiziltas, lead research scientist, Ford Motor

Company and 2020 SPE ACCE Co-Chair. “The ACCE is more than a technical conference, it is also

an annual reunion with industry friends and where new connections are made,” continued Kiziltas.

“We cannot have an in-person ACCE, and provide the same personal collaborative

experience our attendees expect, with social distancing and other CDC recommendations due to

COVID-19” added Kiziltas. “The virtual format enables us to continue the ACCE mission of

educating the market on the latest advancements in composites technologies, providing our sponsors

with targeted corporate exposure, and supporting our students who are the future of the

industry,” said Kiziltas. “I am confident we will have a large automotive OEM and supplier base registering for

the Virtual ACCE,” said Dr. Xiaosong Huang, lab group manager of Polymer Composite Systems in GM

Research & Development, General Motors Company and ACCE Co-Chair. “Free passes for automotive OEMs

to attend the ACCE are appreciated as we look forward to learning about composites technologies to add value

to our vehicles,” added Huang. For more info go to: <http://speautomotive.com/acce-conference>.

The ACCE typically draws over 800 speakers, exhibitors, sponsors and attendees and provides an environment dedicated solely to discussion, education and networking about advances in 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. About 20% of the attendees (160 approx.) work for automotive and light truck, agriculture, truck & bus or aviation OEMs. Approximately 25% (200 approx.) of the attendees work for tiers including molders and material suppliers. The balance of attendees work for composite materials processing equipment, additives, or reinforcement suppliers; trade associations, consultancies, university and government labs; media; and investment banks. The show has been jointly produced by the SPE Automotive and Composites Divisions since 2001.

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. SPE's Composites Division does the same with a focus on polymer-based composites in multiple industries. Topic areas include applications, materials, processing, equipment, tooling, design, and development. 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. For more information see [www.speautomotive.com](http://www.speautomotive.com) and [www.specomposites.org](http://www.specomposites.org). For more information on the **Society of Plastics Engineers**, see [www.4spe.org](http://www.4spe.org).

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