FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 30 MARCH 2023

Media Contact: Teri Chouinard, SPE Auto. Div. Comm. Chair, 248.701.8003, teri@intuitgroup.com

FIRST KEYNOTE ANNOUNCED FOR SPE® ACCE 2023 EVENT: –

"WHAT DOES DISRUPTIVE ELECTRIFICATION OF TRANSPORT MEAN FOR INDUSTRIALIZATION OF COMPOSITES?"

Joe Summers, Commercial Director Airborne and Managing Director Airborne UK

TROY (DETROIT), MICH. - The executive planning committee for the SPE® Automotive Composites Conference & Expo (ACCE) is announcing the first keynote speaker for their ACCE 2023 event September 6 – 8, 2023 at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, Michigan (Detroit suburb).

Joe Summers, Commercial Director Airborne and Managing Director Airborne UK, will present "What Does Disruptive Electrification of Transport Mean for Industrialization of Composites?" The presentation will show how electrification is disrupting most transport segments and creating new ones. In all cases, the additional mass of batteries creates a need for some degree of weight-offsetting and composites are the obvious solution. However, the very specific demands of carrying batteries are a challenge for composites to meet. Many issues are typical to any new application for composites, trying to balance fixed vs recurring costs, functional performance, sustainability, qualification and repeatability, but scalability is bringing another dimension of challenge. This keynote will summarize the key functional challenges for composites in a variety of new and emerging segments and focus on how EVTOL brings functional challenges of aerospace, with production volumes more akin to automotive, and how technology developments are trying to solve them.

“I think the conference subject is a perfect description actually - ‘Composites the Key to EV’ encapsulates our thinking too and the approach of Airborne,” said Summers. “Everyone recognizes that design-for-X is vital but more than ever, with the need for composites, and the drive to achieve rapid scaling of rate manufacture, design-for-automation is critical,” continued Summers. “We support that through “Industrialization Partnership” which are all the steps before readiness for automation,” added Summers.

The keynote will include how UAM/EVTOL (Urban Air Mobility/Electric Vertical Take Off and Landing) combines the challenges of aerospace and automotive, how the demands of both sectors magnify the challenges to the composites industry, and how we might collectively rise to that challenge with solutions.

The keynote will refer to a specific example of the crossover between Automotive and Aerospace approaches. Airborne is working within the ASCEND consortium (**A**erospace and Automotive **S**upply **C**hain **E**nabled **D**evelopment) to accelerate the development of composite material and process technologies for the next generation of energy efficient aircraft and future mobility. Other industry partners include Assyst Bullmer, Cobham Mission Systems Wimborne, Cygnet Texkimp, Des Composites, Far-UK Ltd, GKN Aerospace, Hexcel Composites, Hive Composites, LMAT, Loop Technology, McLaren Automotive, the National Composites Centre, Rafinex, Sigmatex (UK) and Solvay Composite Materials with collaboration and investment support from Axillium Research. Through a 3-year commitment established in March 2021, the £40 million consortium, funded by a £20 million commitment from industry and a £19.6 million commitment from the UK government via ATI, is focusing on greater adoption of composite technologies today, the industrialization of new technologies, as well as accelerating aerospace production rates to meet future high-volume requirements. ASCEND is helping to develop technologies from across the UK supply chain to develop the advanced materials and automation equipment required to manufacture lightweight structures for the sustainable air mobility, aerospace and automotive industry.

About the SPE ACCE

Held annually in suburban Detroit, the ACCE 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, Asia/Pacific and South America as well as North America. About 20% of attendees work for automotive and light truck, agriculture, truck & bus or aviation OEMs and another 25% represent tier suppliers. Attendees also work for composite materials processing equipment, additives, or reinforcement suppliers; trade associations, consultancies, university and government labs; media; and investment banks. ACCE has been jointly produced by the SPE Automotive and Composites Divisions since 2001. For more info go to: **https://speautomotive.com/acce-conference/.**

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

#####

Joe Summers, Commercial Director Airborne and Managing Director Airborne UK will present "What Does Disruptive Electrification of Transport Mean for Industrialization of Composites" at the SPE ACCE 2023 Event, September 6 – 8, 2023

Bio: Joe Summers has been in the composites industry for nearly 25 years, starting his career at Gurit where he held various roles including Head of Engineering and Program Management, and Director of Business Development. He joined Airborne in 2017 and is Commercial Director for the automation business, along with being Managing Director of the UK subsidiary. Joe is also a director of Composites UK, the UK composites trade association.

For more information and the SPE ACCE see https://speautomotive.com/acce-conference/ .

For more information on the ***Society of Plastics Engineers***, see https://4spe.org/