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FIRST KEYNOTE ANNOUNCED FOR SPE® ACCE 2025 EVENT: –

“COMPOSITES & CIRCULAR VEHICLE TECHNOLOGIES AT VOLKSWAGEN GROUP INNOVATION”

Kristin von Szadkowski, Field of Action Lead - Sustainable Product Innovation at Volkswagen Group

TROY (DETROIT), MICH. - The executive planning committee for the [SPE® Automotive Composites](#)

[Conference & Expo](#) (ACCE) is announcing the first keynote speaker for their ACCE 2025 event Sept. 3 – 5, 2025 in

Novi, Michigan (Detroit suburb). Kristin von Szadkowski, Field of Action Lead for Sustainable Product Innovation at

Volkswagen Group, will present **“COMPOSITES & CIRCULAR VEHICLE TECHNOLOGIES AT VOLKSWAGEN**

GROUP INNOVATION.” The presentation will outline the materials and technologies targeted to help Volkswagen

achieve sustainability goals with a focus on polymers and composites. The keynote will also highlight the

development of sustainable automotive materials, establishing concepts for recycling and circular economy, as well

as CAE simulation technologies for higher efficiencies in the development process as well as on the road.

“Our sustainability goals include reducing the CO2 footprint per vehicle by 30% vs. 2018 and selling 50% BEV

globally,” said von Szadkowski. “By 2040, the Volkswagen Group plans to sell 100% emission free vehicles in the

main markets,” continued von Szadkowski. “By 2050, the entire Volkswagen Group aims to become a climate

neutral company,” added von Szadkowski. “Support and solutions from the automotive composites industry will help

Volkswagen achieve sustainable mobility beyond carbon neutrality.”

This presentation will be an update and expansion of the keynote that was given at last year's ACCE by Dr. Hendrik Mainka, Principal Program Lead, Volkswagen Group of America.

About the SPE ACCE

Held annually in suburban Detroit, the ACCE draws 500 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.

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Kristin von Szadkowski, Field of Action Lead - Sustainable Product Innovation at Volkswagen Group will present:

“COMPOSITES & CIRCULAR VEHICLE TECHNOLOGIES AT VOLKSWAGEN GROUP INNOVATION”

At SPE® ACCE 2025 Event, Sept. 3-5, 2025

Kristin von Szadkowski earned her Bachelors in Biomimetics in 2011 and her Master in Mechanical Engineering in 2014 from the University of Applied Sciences Bremen, Germany.

Specializing in the field of robotics and mechatronics from 2009, Kristin worked at the German Research Centre for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI). During her time at DFKI's Robotics Innovation Centre, Kristin was developing mobile robots and she also started at the Volkswagen Group Innovation headquarters in this field in 2014.

After a year of sailing sabbatical, Kristin reoriented herself towards the field of sustainability. In 2021, Kristin took over the responsibility for Volkswagen's global sustainability research program called Go.Sub-Zero. Today, she leads the field of action "Sustainable Product Innovation" in the Volkswagen Group Innovation. The core of both sustainability programs is the development of sustainable automotive materials, establishing concepts for recycling and circular economy as well as CAE simulation technologies for higher efficiencies in the development process as well as on the road. Kristin is combining the results of these sustainability programs in the lighthouse project "Circular Car Concept."

Photo attached.

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/>