



**AUTOMOTIVE
INNOVATION AWARDS
COMPETITION & GALA**
HONORING THE BEST IN AUTOMOTIVE PLASTICS

Instructions for Submitting Nominations
SPE Automotive Division
"Most Innovative Use of Plastics"

1) Nominations will be judged on the impact and trend-setting nature of the application. Innovation in any area of application will be considered, including:

**Design
Manufacturing
Integration**

**Engineering
Assembly
Weight and Cost Reduction**

- 2) ***Nominations must be received no later than September 12th of this year.*** The nomination form, and the innovation description form, must be filled out completely and legibly. ***Incomplete or unclear information may result in disqualification of your nomination.***
- 3) Nominations can be made by anyone knowledgeable of the achievement. Select the category you feel best suits the innovation; however, the Awards Committee reserves the right to recategorize nominations. Categories may be added or deleted depending on the quality and type of nominations received.
- 4) Nominations will be verified by Email within 5 working days. If you do not receive confirmation after 5 days, ***it is your responsibility to contact us at awards@SPEAutomotive.com***. You are required to submit one (1) representative part, ***which becomes the property of SPE***. Additional parts may be requested for display, publicity, or other promotional purposes. Parts must be sent to: **Celanese Corp**, 2600 North Opdyke Rd., Auburn Hills, MI 48326-1940 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Please call Jeff Helms at (248) 459-7012 if you have any questions.
- * Parts that are shipped from outside the U.S. are the sole responsibility of the nominating company and the nominating company assumes COMPLETE RESPONSIBILITY for the following:
 - Shipping costs and logistics.
 - ON-TIME arrival of parts for judging.
 - All customs issues including costs, security, insurance, information requests, etc.
 - * SPE is not responsible in any way for parts being submitted for judging so please ensure that you fully and completely understand customs issues to ensure on-time arrival of your part for judging.
 - * The SPE Automotive Division **requires that you arrange to have your part arrive by September 19th**, for first round judging.
- 5) All correspondence for presentations, additional information etc. **will be directed to the person making the nomination.**
- 6) Judging will be done in two stages. Finalists in each category will be selected by vote of the SPE Automotive Division Board of Directors. The winner in each category, including the Grand Award Winner, will be determined by vote of a Blue Ribbon Panel, composed of media who write for trade publications as well as industry experts.
- 7) If your nomination is accepted, it is highly recommended that you present your nomination to the Board of Directors, and if you become a finalist, to the Blue Ribbon Panel. You will be notified of meeting times and locations.
- 8) The SPE Automotive Division and its members, 1st and 2nd round judges, and sponsors reserve the right to publish information and claims on nominations received, as well as to publish photos or artwork received or taken to illustrate nominated parts and processes.

How to submit your nomination to the SPE Automotive Division:

Fill out the Nomination Form and Innovation Description in this form fillable PDF workbook.
Email completed form to awards@speautomotive.com
An electronic version of this form is available at www.speautomotive.com

NOTE: Problems have been reported with non-Adobe PDF programs. Please use Adobe Acrobat or Adobe Acrobat Reader to complete this form. If the form submitted is not usable, the submitting party will be required to re-submit the form in a usable format.

2026 Key Dates:

September 12 - Deadline for submission of nominations, Parts Due September 19.
September 19 - Notification of time and date for presentation to SPE Board of Directors.
September 24 & 25 - Presentations to SPE Board of Directors, Location: Celanese Corp, Auburn Hills, MI
October 2 - Presentations to Blue Ribbon Panel, Location: Celanese Corp, Auburn Hills, MI
November 4 - SPE Automotive Division Innovation Awards Program - Laurel Manor, Livonia, MI.



**Parts Competition Nomination Form
for SPE Automotive Division
"Most Innovative Use of Plastics"**

Application must be on a vehicle AVAILABLE FOR CONSUMER PURCHASE
prior to NOVEMBER 1 in the year of the nomination.

Nominations must be received no later than September 11th of this year. This Nomination Form and the Innovation Description Form must be filled out completely and legibly. Incomplete or unclear information may result in disqualification of your nomination.

Name of Application: _____

Recommended category for Most Innovative nomination
(Please Select one Category from the Drop Down Box):

See Page 4 for guidelines on selecting the best category for your nomination.

Vehicle Manufacturer: _____

Model Year application in mass production: _____

Model Name:
(ie Ford Escape) _____

**Vehicle WILL BE available for consumer purchase by
November 1 of THIS YEAR.**

System Supplier: _____

Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____

Molder/Processor: _____

Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____

Toolmaker: _____

Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____

Material Supplier: _____

Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____

Generic resin type: _____

Resin Trade Name: _____

Grade: _____

OEM representative to be recognized

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Title: _____

Has OEM permission for the nomination been obtained:

If no, permission must be obtained before presentation to SPE Board of Directors

Individual Making Nomination:

Your Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Email completed file to:
awards@speautomotive.com

Note: The person making the nomination will be the primary contact for SPE. All correspondence will be sent to you, and it is your responsibility to notify all members of your team about event dates and other requirements!

Nominations will be verified via email, along with instructions on where to send representative parts for the judging process.

If you have questions, or need additional information, call Kevin Pageau (248-835-4999).



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.

Note: Please do not enter carriage returns in these fields.

We not need extreme details. Entering 1 or 2 sentences is fine.

Additional details should be presented at the Awards Program Judging.

- 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.



AUTOMOTIVE
**INNOVATION AWARDS
COMPETITION & GALA**
HONORING THE BEST IN AUTOMOTIVE PLASTICS

**Selecting your category for the
SPE Automotive Division
Innovation Awards Program.**

The first question on the third page (What is the **single most unique or innovative feature** of this nomination?) is your guide to selecting the best category.

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, or Powertrain.**

For the **Aftermarket & Limited Edition/Specialty Vehicles Category**, an Aftermarket application would either be an accessory option offered through the OEM aftermarket groups, or by an independent third party. A Limited Edition/Specialty Vehicle application must be on a vehicle with annual sales of less than 5,000 vehicles/year.

This category focuses on how plastics enabled this application to be developed, and the unique benefits realized by the final consumer.

For **Electric and Autonomous Vehicle Systems** we are looking for nominations in this fast growing area - motors, sensors, batteries, etc.

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 **Sustainability**, there should be a demonstrated improvement due to the use of plastics. 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.

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.