

Monday, April 13, 2026

12:00 PM Exhibition Set-up Starts

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

7:00 AM: **Registration & Continental Breakfast Sponsored by BASF**

8:15 AM: **Welcome Remarks: Conference Chair, Dr. Sassan Tarahomi, CEO, Mid-Michigan Plastics**

8:30 AM: **Technical Program Highlights: Dr. Norm Kakarala / Dr. Suresh Shah (SPE Director Emeritus – Both)**

8:45 AM: **Keynote Presenter: The Critical Role of R&D in Providing Breakthrough Technology Solutions for Transportation, Linda Cadwell Stancin, GM Executive Director / Research & Development**

9:15 AM: **Sponsor Appreciation**

9:30 AM to 10:30 **Break for Networking and Review Exhibits**

	Conference Hall - I	Conference Hall - II	Conference Hall - III	Conference Hall - IV
	BATTERY AND THERMAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM John Himmelspach, SABIC Dr. Jeff Helms, Celanese Corp. Maggie Baumann, Performance Polymers and Additives LLC	SUSTAINABILITY AND CARBON NEUTRALITY Matt VanDyke, General Motors Dr. Alper Kiziltas, Amazon Drew Geda, Hyundai-Kia America	EVOLUTION OF INTERIORS Dr. Rose Ryntz, Ryntz & Associates Jeff Crist, Ford Motor Co. Jim Keller, Mankiewicz Coatings LLC	EVOLUTION OF EXTERIORS AND LIGHTING Tom Pickett, General Motors Hala Stevens, Magna Exteriors Inc. Volker Plehn, SABIC Sponsored by SABIC
10:30 AM:	Battery Thermal Propagation Solutions: Comprehensive Industry Analysis and Protection Strategies Bhaskara Boddakayala Ford Motor Company	Upcycling Waste Polypropylene via a Scalable Masterbatch: Enhancing Recyclability Dr. RaziyeH Mohammadi Ford Motor Company	How to Create a Winning Interior Execution Gary Vasilash Wards Automotive Contributor	Chevrolet Silverado EV Multi-Flex Multi-Pro Midgate Derek Patterson, Manilee Romero General Motors
11:00 AM:	A Review of Thermal Insulating Materials Used in Battery Module Assembly and Test Methods Sze-Sze Ng Dow	ASR Recycling Marco Meloni Plastic Recycling Inc	Interior Plastics, Now and Next Darren Nowak, Mitra O'Mally The ITB Group, Ltd	Mold in High Gloss Black Mirror Shells Mary Reiber, Bradley Sparks, General Motors
11:30 AM:	Regulations and Trends in Fire Protection Materials for EV Batteries. Shababa Selim ID TechEx	Lightweighting, Recycled and Renewable Materials Towards Sustainable Composites for Automotive Applications Dr. Kyriaki Kalaitzidou Georgia Institute of Technology	Leather in the Age of Electrification: Evolving Sustainability Through Material Integration Fernando Caccia BADER de México	Artistic Active Aero Rear Spoiler Cadillac Celestiq Seona Lee General Motors

12:00 PM: **Networking Lunch: Sponsored by SPE Automotive Division**

	Conference Hall - I	Conference Hall - II	Conference Hall - III	Conference Hall - IV
	BATTERY AND THERMAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM John Himmelspach, SABIC Dr. Jeff Helms, Celanese Corp. Maggie Baumann, Performance Polymers and Additives LLC	MANUFACTURING ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES Adam Wagner, Advanced Composites Steven Vanloozen, Lotte Advanced Materials Thilo Stier, AKRO Plastic Sponsored by Inteva Products, LLC	EVOLUTION OF INTERIORS Dr. Rose Ryntz, Ryntz & Associates Jeff Crist, Ford Motor Co. Jim Keller, Mankiewicz Coatings LLC	EVOLUTION OF EXTERIORS AND LIGHTING Tom Pickett, General Motors Hala Stevens, Magna Exteriors Inc. Volker Plehn, SABIC Sponsored by SABIC
1:30 PM:	Lithium Run-Off Fire Suppression for EV Batteries Robert Dixon ARG3X International	Additive Manufacturing Large Scale Using Carbon and Glass Reinforced Materials Thilo Stier AKRO Plastic GmbH	Redefining Sustainable Vehicle Interiors Peter Barna Antolin	Innovative Extrusion & Lighting Product Designs and Processing for Automotive Exterior Dr. Talat Karmo Vintech
2:00 PM:	Advancing Coolant Tube Solutions for Battery Electric Vehicles Cong Zhang Martinrea	Using Thermal Camera Technology for Process Control Chris Lemmons Emitted Energy	Eliminating the Paint Line – 2 Shots to Class A: Structural Molding with Integrated Polyurethane Coating Paul Hahler, Mankiewicz Coatings, LLC Dan Rozelman, Krauss Maffei	Reimagining Exterior Finishes with In-Mold Films Jim Pillars General Motors
2:30 PM:	Advanced Polyamide Polyolefin Alloys for Mono and Multi-Layer Tubing Applications Mike Petty LyondellBasell	Beyond Off-the-Shelf Robotics: Driving Operational Excellence Through Custom-Integrated AMRs and ARVs Across Specialized Industries Frisco Borrero SK International	The Future of Surface and Appearance Measurement Systems: Camera-Based Solutions for Autonomous Vehicle Coatings Darryl Case Rhopoint	Large Part Manufacturing Technologies for Thermoplastics Carlos Pereira SABIC
3:00 PM:	Design Freedom and Lightweighting in Electrified Thermal Management Systems Alyssa Arend	Hybrid Thermoplastic Composite Roof Cross Beam, Lighter, Smaller, Smarter and Cost-Effective Steven Wille, Pal Swaminathan	DRIVER ASSISTANCE & SAFETY SYSTEMS Randy Maynard, Celanese Corp. Christian Sodeikat, Nexeo Plastics Dr. Nadeem Bokhari, Formely with Sumika	Exterior Lighted Auto Grill Designs with Sustainable SLX Somasekhar Bobba SABIC

Syensqo	Röchling	A Case Study on PPS Based Plastic Gap Waveguide Antennas for 77-81 GHz ADAS Applications Joey Lee LG Chem	
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3:30 PM to 4:00: Break for Networking and Review Exhibits

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	BATTERY AND THERMAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM John Himmelspach, SABIC Dr. Jeff Helms, Celanese Corp. Maggie Baumann, Performance Polymers and Additives, LLC	MANUFACTURING ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES Adam Wagner, Advanced Composites Steven Vanloozen, Lotte Advanced Materials Thilo Stier, AKRO Plastic Sponsored by Inteva Products, LLC	DRIVER ASSISTANCE & SAFETY SYSTEMS Randy Maynard, Celanese Corp. Christian Sodeikat, Nexeo Plastics Dr. Nadeem Bokhari, Formerly with Sumika	EVOLUTION OF EXTERIORS AND LIGHTING Tom Pickett, General Motors Hala Stevens, Magna Exteriors Inc. Volker Plehn, SABIC Sponsored by SABIC
4:00 PM:	Safe, Sustainable, and High-Performance: Next-Generation Flame Retardants for Electric Vehicles Carolyn Pressley, Tobias Moss Budenheim	Lightweight by Design: STM Sandwich Composites for High-Stiffness Seating, Roof, and Spare Tire Carrier Systems Ricardo Mercado BASF	Advances in Laser Welding for ADAS Applications Dr. Frank van der Burgt Envalior	From Appearance to Durability: Next Generation Materials for Automotive Exteriors & Lighting Danting Hong Kingfa
4:30 PM:	Engineering Plastics for Thermal Runaway Propagation Mitigation: Performance Requirements and Validation Considerations Dr. Su Jung Han General Motors	Optimizing the Processability of Filled Polyamides – Reducing Melt Viscosity Without Compromising Properties Dr. John Facinelli AdvanSix Inc.	A Game Changer of High Voltage Insulation Plastics Dr. Tamin Sidiki Envalior	High-Gloss Mold in Color (MIC) Polymer Materials that Achieve Cass A Visual Performance Yan Chen Zhe Jiang Copt.
5:00 PM:	High Performance Composite Battery Enclosures: Combining Structural Strength with Built In Thermal Shielding Ricardo Mercado BASF	From Sparse Fatigue Data to Structural Prediction: AI-based Material Card Generation and Multiscale Modeling of Short FRP Vibration Fatigue Gourab Ghosh Hexagon, Schaeffler Group	Innovative Material Solutions for ADAS Sensors Madison Scally Envalior	Plexiglas HIT - High Heat Impact PMMA Puneet Chandra Trinseo
5:30 PM:	Flame Retardant Electrically Insulative and Thermal Management Solutions for High Voltage Electric Vehicle Batteries and AC-DC Converter Somasekhar Bobba Sabic	Mini Countryman – Fiber Dashboard Process Dominic Ceddia Inteva Products	Multifunctional and Sustainable Materials for Next-Gen ADAS Modules Dr. Julian Heinisch LG Chem	Optical Light Guide - Edge Lighting Solution: Advancing Automotive Lighting Through Material Solution Emily Archer Covestro

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Networking Reception: Sponsored by SPE Automotive Division

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

- 7:00 AM **Registration & Continental Breakfast Sponsored by SPE Automotive Division**
- 8:15 AM **Welcome Remarks: Conference Chair, Dr. Sassan Tarahomi, CEO, Mid Michigan Plastics**
- 8:30 AM **Keynote Speaker: Localization Strategies – How Global Players are Responding to U.S. Policy Shifts, John Warner, CEO of American Battery Solutions**
- 9:00 AM **Keynote Speaker: Solid State Battery, Dr. He, ID TechEx**
- 9:30 PM to 10:30 **Break for Networking and Reviewing Exhibits**

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	BATTERY AND THERMAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM John Himmelspach, SABIC Dr. Jeff Helms, Celanese Corp. Maggie Baumann, Performance Polymers and Additives, LLC	ELECTRIFIED POWERTRAIN AND POWER DISTRIBUTION Dr. Jeff Helms, Celanese Corp. Dr. Monoj Ghosh, Eaton Corp. Dr. Javed Mapkar, Daikin America, Inc. Sponsored by AGC Chemicals Americas Inc.	MATERIAL INNOVATIONS Harsh Modi, Tesla Troy Tingley, BASF Sunit Shah, LyondellBasell	EVOLUTION OF EXTERIORS AND LIGHTING Tom Pickett, General Motors Hala Stevens, Magna Exteriors Inc. Volker Plehn, SABIC Sponsored by SABIC
10:30 AM	Thermal Management Strategies: Lucid, Audi, Porsche... Thilo Stier AKRO Plastic GmbH	Non-Halogenated Flame Retardant Polyphthalamide (PPA) Compositions with a High Degree of Thermal Shock Resistance, and High Comparative Tracking Index (CTI) Dr. Prabuddha Bansal Celanese	Impact Modifier with Improved Thermal Aging Performance for Polyamide 6,6 Formulations Xian Jiang Dow	Lighting Trends Felipe Melhado Driving Visions News
11:00 AM	Supply Chain Resiliency – Key Consideration for Product Development Maggie Baumann Performance Polymers and Additives LLC/FRX Polymers	Functional and Sustainable Polymer Composites & Their Advanced Manufacturing for Automotive Applications Dr. Weinan Xu University of Tennessee, Knoxville	Development and Utilization of Advanced Ablation-Resistant Polyolefin Materials Wangyang Zhao Kingfa	Lighting Simulation Victor Loya ANSYS
11:30 AM		Comprehensive Polyamide and mPPE Material Solutions to Meet the Challenging Requirements of Electrified Drive, Connectors and Battery Systems Hayato Kishigami Asahi Kasei Plastics North America	Next-Generation TPO's for Body Panels with Enhanced Dimensional Stability Wesley Pasikowski LyondellBasell	Cadillac Escalade IQ /IQL Tail Lamp Inner Lens Li Qi & Jeff Ulrich General Motors

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1:30 PM	Sustainable Plastics in Automotive: Can Delivery Match Ambition? Thomas Bithell IDTechEx	Insulating the Future: Thermoplastics for High-Voltage SiC Power Electronics Christian Sims Syensqo	Non-halogenated Flame-Retardant Compounds for High Performance Applications Chris Rudzinskis LyondellBasell	BEV RR Automotive Lighting Trends and Applications using Neutral Density (ND) Lamp Designs Chris Spain, Brian Carr Rohm
2:00 PM	Advancing Natural Fiber-Reinforced PP And PLA Composites for Electric Vehicle Applications Dr. Ali Amiri North Dakota State University	From Color to Current: Thermoplastic Insulation for Safe, Fast-Charging HV Battery Inlets Jennifer Beem Syensqo	Future of EAV Polymers: Navigating Regulatory Shifts, Polymeric FR Transitions, and ATO Reductions Strategies Kim Kern ICL-Group	NOISE AND VIBRATION Dr. Xian Jiang, Dow Dr. Xiaopeng Li, Toyota Dr. Rodrigo Orozco, ExxonMobil Next-Generation Structured Damping for Lightweight Automotive Systems and Beyond Dr. Xiaopeng Li Toyota
2:30 PM	Sustainable Battery Module with 65% lower CO2-Footprint Bernd Henkelmann RADICI GROUP	AGC Insulation Solutions for High-Voltage Wire Applications Dr. Sarah Blosch AGC Chemicals Americas Inc.	Innovative Carbon Fiber Reinforcement: Lightweight with Competitive Application Costs Chris Kesh AKRO Plastic GmbH	Control Algorithm for Load Adaptation of Quasi-Zero Stiffness Isolator Using Acceleration as the Feedback Signal Jorge Gonzalez Salinas Toyota

3:00 PM	<p>Sustainable Composites from Pyrolyzed Automotive Paint Sludge (APS) for EV Parts Prof. Manjusri Misra University of Guelph</p>	<p>Insulating the Future: Advancements in PEEK & PAEK eMobility Applications Roderick Reber Victrex</p>	<p>Understanding New Test Procedures for FR applications and the Effect on the Street for EVs and Public Transportation Stephen Denny AKRO Plastic GmbH</p>	<p>NVH Benchmark of Hybrid Vehicles Jian Pan Auria</p>
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	<p>SUSTAINABILITY AND CARBON NEUTRALITY Matt VanDyke, General Motors Dr. Alper Kiziltas, Amazon Drew Geda, Hyundai-Kia America</p>	<p>ELECTRIFIED POWERTRAIN AND POWER DISTRIBUTION Dr. Jeff Helms, Celanese Corp. Dr. Monoj Ghosh, Eaton Corp. Dr. Javed Mapkar, Daikin America, Inc Sponsored by AGC Chemicals Americas Inc.</p>	<p>MATERIAL INNOVATIONS Harsh Modi, Tesla Troy Tingley, BASF Sunit Shah, LyondellBasell</p>	<p>NOISE AND VIBRATION Dr. Xian Jiang, Dow Dr. Xiaopeng Li, Toyota Dr. Rodrigo Orozco, ExxonMobile</p>
4:00 PM	<p>Lightweight, Fire-Resistant and Sustainable Polyamide Biocomposites for Electric Vehicle (EV) Prof. Amar Mohanty University of Guelph</p>	<p>High-Temperature Insulation for Fast-Charging Battery Busbars Dr. Victoria Lee Syensqo</p>	<p>A New Mica Product for EV Plastics Dr. Saied Kochesfahani IMERYS</p>	<p>Outboard CVJ Boot Squeak Noise: Causes and Solutions Dr. Jake Dickinson Celanese</p>
4:30 PM	<p>Thermally Stable Lignin-Derived PFAS- and Halogen-Free Flame Retardant for PC/ABS Prof. Ning Yan University of Toronto</p>	<p>Contact Corrosion in FR Plastics Mo Meysami BASF</p>	<p>How Fractal Graphene Delivers Unprecedented Performance in Thermoplastics at Minimal Addition Rates Olivier Verrielle Hydrograph</p>	<p>The Properties of Anti-Squeak PC/ABS for Interior Parts Kevin Pack LG</p>

End of the Conference