



SPE THERMOSET COMPOSITES DIVISION ANNOUNCES 'ALL STAR' SPEAKER LINEUP FOR TUCSON CONFERENCE

For Immediate Release
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Chicago, IL -- 1/23/14 -- The Thermoset Composites Division of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) today announced the full list of speakers to present at the SPE Thermoset Topical Conference (TOPCON) to be held in Tucson, Arizona February 24-26, 2014. Among the speakers who will represent the plastics industry's leaders will be John Gaither, Chairman, President & CEO of Reichhold, Inc. Mr. Gaither will deliver the Keynote Address on Feb. 26th. His presentation will address UPR composites, both present and future, and look at trends, growth opportunities and innovations in partnering.

John Gaither has an extensive history with Reichhold, beginning his career in Vienna, Austria, developing the Eastern European sales territory. He then positioned to handle marketing and sales in Europe, returning to the U.S., where he created Reichhold's stand-alone polyester resins division in Jacksonville, Florida, which became the largest unsaturated polyester resin business in the world. He has held various roles with the company, among them; President of the Emulsion Polymers Division and Interim Chief Operating Officer. He was named President and CEO of Reichhold, Inc. in 2004, and in 2005 Gaither led the effort that culminated in the successful MBO, acquiring Reichhold from DIC. Following the recession, Reichhold shifted its focus to rightsizing the company's manufacturing footprint within the mature markets of North America and Western Europe while investing in emerging markets. In recent years, Reichhold has grown new business in Turkey, India and China, with greenfield plant investments in India and China. They continue to build upon their leadership position in Brazil. Reichhold has consistently invested in new technology, which has led to breakthroughs in alkyd latex, vinyl hybrid resins, as well as other processing related technology.

The SPE Thermoset Division is the fastest growing division within the SPE today. The Tucson conference will be represented and attended by professionals in thermoset composite manufacturing (SMC, BMC, phenolic epoxy, rubber, melamine, etc.), raw material additives (resins, glass, fillers, pigments, etc.), mold design and production, and part design and production. Market segments represented will be appliance, food contact (house ware, serving and commercial ware), electrical, sound, kitchen and bath, sporting goods, mining, wind energy, fuel cell, automotive and robotics.

The prestigious list of speakers at the conference will include:

- Joseph Rakow, Ph.D., P.E., Principal Engineer from Exponent Failure Analysis Associates (*'Failure Analysis, A Tool for Managing Risk and Liability of Composite Products'*)
- Dr. Peter Mooney, Founder and President of Plastics Custom Research Services (*'The State of the U.S. Economy; Implications for Composite Processors'*)
- Willem DeVos, CEO, Society of Plastics Engineers (Keynote)
- Chip Jarvis, VP Engineering & Business Development, Cambro Manufacturing

- Scott Sims, Chief Metallurgist, Rosemont Copper Mine
- Matt Lieser, Key Account and Specification Manager, Owens Corning (*'How to Use FRP Material to Lower Corrosion Costs'*)
- Tim Langschwager, Lead Development Chemist, Quantum Composites (*'High Temperature Thermoset Matrix Systems for Industrial Applications'*)

For the full conference agenda, go to www.spetopcon.com

About SPE Thermoset Division & TOPCON

The SPE Thermoset Composites Division

is dedicated to educating both industry and academia regarding the advantages and innovations associated with thermosetting material technologies and processing techniques. Thermoset materials are highly engineered molding materials which are often used to replace metals and ceramics. Industries served by thermosets include: infrastructure, automotive, electrical, corrosion, communications, oil and gas, mining, medical, appliance, kitchen and bath, food service and fuel cell.

The Thermoset Division's annual conference unites industry suppliers, material manufacturers, mold and part designers and processors and OEMs in a technical forum which highlights the most contemporary advancements in material, machine and application technologies. The two day conference is held in combination with exhibits and exclusive networking opportunities. The 2014 conference will offer a gala reception, the first SPE Thermoset Division Golf Outing, as well as the second 'Introduction to Thermosets Class'. Golf outing and class will be held Feb. 24. The conference proceedings and golf will be held at the Loews Ventana Canyon Resort in Tucson, Arizona, Feb. 24-26, 2014. SPE Group Hotel rate is available to attendees. For further information on the SPE Thermoset Division, visit www.spethermosets.org. The conference is planned and managed by Grapevine marketing and experiences (GVME) based in the Chicagoland area.

About GV marketing & experiences

GV marketing and experiences (GVME) plans both domestic and international high end corporate events including: Board of Director Meetings, Sales Meetings, Incentive and Rewards Trips, and Team Building Events, Trade Shows and Conferences. GVME specializes in the marketing of thermoset and composite materials and processing techniques, with a deep base in BMC and SMC materials.

The company's marketing services include brand development, market studies, sales of BMC and SMC materials, web design, advertising design, internal and external sales presentations and technical copywriting. Since GVME took over the planning of the SPE Thermoset Division Conference in 2006, the conference's revenue has grown at a rate > 500%.

SPE Thermoset Composites Division Press Contact:

Shelane Nunnery

GVME

630.247.6733 · www.gvineme.com

shelane@gvineme.com