



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (August 4, 2010)

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SPE[®] TO BESTOW LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD ON FORD RETIREE, ALLAN MURRAY AT 40TH INNOVATION AWARDS GALA

TROY, (DETROIT) MICH. – Allan D. Murray, Ph.D., who worked more than 30 years at Ford Motor Co. as a manager of research, manufacturing, and product development guiding many advanced products and technologies to market, has been named the tenth recipient of the prestigious **Lifetime Achievement Award** from the SPE[®] Automotive Division. Murray will be honored at the 40th-annual SPE **Automotive Innovation Awards Gala** on November 9 at Burton Manor (www.burtonmanor.net) in Livonia, Mich. The award recognizes the technical achievements of automotive industry executives whose work – in research, design, and engineering, etc. – has led to significant integration of polymeric materials on vehicles.

First given in the year 2000, past winners of the SPE **Lifetime Achievement Award** include:

- J.T. Battenberg III, former chairman and chief-executive officer of Delphi;
- Bernard Robertson, then executive vice-president of DaimlerChrysler;
- Robert Schaad, chairman of Husky;
- Tom Moore, retired vice-president, Liberty and Technical Affairs at then DaimlerChrysler;
- Mr. Shigeki Suzuki, general manager - Materials Division, Toyota Motor Company;
- Barbara A. Sanders, retired director - Advanced Development & Engineering Processes at Delphi Thermal Systems;
- Josh Madden, retired General Motors Corp. & Volkswagen of America;
- Frank Macher, former CEO of Collins & Aikman Corp., Federal Mogul Corp., and ITT Automotive, and who also spent 30 years at Ford Motor Co.; and
- Irv Poston, retired head of Plastics (Composites) Development-Technical Center, General Motors Corp.

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SPE to Bestow Lifetime Achievement Award on Allan Murray
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When Dr. Allan Murray retired from Ford in 2001, he was the automaker's technology director for the Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles (PNGV), a government-industry initiative established to develop technology for affordable, fuel-efficient vehicles. In this position, which he held for about five years, he led teams of government and industry researchers who were working on a wide range of technologies, including advanced vehicle construction, powertrains, fuel cells, batteries, and power electronics. Prior to this, Murray was manager-Technology Strategy for Ford's Plastic & Trim Products Division (PTPD), where he was responsible for identifying multi-million dollar efficiencies for the organization's major products and manufacturing processes by benchmarking its manufacturing and engineering practices against leading competitors. Before this, Murray was manager-Advanced Technology Office, PTPD, where he led an innovative 40-person technical center in the development of leading-edge automotive plastic and composite products, processes, and methodologies.

In his previous position of manager-Exterior Systems R&D, Plastics Division, Murray applied plastics and composite technologies to achieve commercial success for bumpers, body panels, body structure, and vehicle lighting. It was in this position, starting in 1980, that Murray led the development of the first all-thermoplastic bumpers – from initial concept through production implementation – for Ford's *Escort*, *Aerostar*, and *Taurus/Sable* passenger vehicles. Bumper revenues exceeded \$300-million USD annually and the application garnered two **Body Exterior** awards in SPE's **Automotive Innovation Awards Competition**. Murray also was instrumental in the development of the award-winning composite front-end structure on the 1996 *Taurus* sedan. Before holding this position, he was R&D department manager, Ford Vinyl Plant, where he oversaw development and production implementation of numerous new products and processes.

Murray began his Ford career in 1970 as a senior research scientist in the Polymer Science Division of Ford Motor Research Staff where he initiated development of thermoplastic stamping with the Metal Stamping Division and Body Engineering. This development was continued by Murray at the newly formed Ford Plastics Development Center in 1972, leading to its implementation at the Ford Maumee Stamping Plant. The first automotive thermoplastic stamping process, it allowed parts such as fender liners to be produced far faster (10-second cycle times) than with compression molding or thermoforming, and to do so in thinner walls and at lower cost (30%) than the injection molded parts it replaced. Processing was done using matched metal dies mounted in metal "crank-type" stamping presses and the process remained in use for more than 20 years. In fact, the process was named the **Grand Award** winner in the SPE **Automotive Innovation Awards Competition** in 1976.

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During his Ford years, Murray was a frequent university recruiter for the automaker and he mentored numerous recent university-graduate employees, helping guide and develop their careers. He served as chairman and president of the non-profit Michigan Materials and Processes Institute (MMPI), which sponsored collaborative university-industry materials research. Under his leadership, MMPI successfully merged with the National Center for Manufacturing Sciences.

Dr. Murray holds a Ph.D. in Metallurgical Engineering and Materials Science from Carnegie Mellon University, an MBA from Wayne State University, and a B.S. degree in Metallurgical Engineering from University of British Columbia. He is a long-time member of both SAE International and SPE. He holds two U.S. patents and he has written many technical papers for industry publication and chapters for handbooks, as well as given presentations at conferences worldwide.

Since retiring from the automaker, Murray has kept busy as a judge for the Premier Automotive Supplier Award for Creative Excellence (PACE), an annual innovation awards competition presented to global automotive suppliers for outstanding innovative developments. He has also participated as a technical expert on several U.S. National Academy of Science (NAS) committees to determine the prospective benefits of advanced vehicle technologies, and also on an NAS committee to rank and select technology proposals for funding.

Additionally, Murray has used his technical expertise as a consultant for Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) on commercialization of technologies for industrial applications. He also has consulted with several businesses on the development and marketing of advanced technologies. In fact, on behalf of one client, he coordinated a Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) funding grant application with the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), obtaining Phase I and Phase II SBIR funding, and ensuring the project was completed successfully.

Currently, Murray is chief technology officer for Allied Composite Technologies LLC, a startup company developing and commercializing proprietary thermoplastic composites technologies for the automotive, alternative-energy, and building & construction industries.

Allan Murray has a long history of service to SPE. He joined the international engineering society in 1972 and has been a member of the Automotive Division board since the mid-1970s where he has held numerous positions, including member or chair of various subcommittees, division treasurer, division chair, and national councilor. He was elected to the prestigious *Director Emeritus* position 10 years ago and was also named an Automotive Division *Honored Service Member* and a Detroit Section *Iron Man*. In fact, Murray was the first automotive engineer to be elected a *Fellow* of SPE.

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Dr. Murray will be honored at this year's SPE **Automotive Innovation Awards Gala** on November 9 starting with the VIP Cocktail Reception, generously sponsored by Ticona Engineering Polymers, at 5:00 pm. At 5:30 p.m. the main exhibit area will open for general admission and guests can review this year's **Automotive Innovation Awards** part nominations, as well as enjoy the specialty and antique vehicles that are always a highlight of the show. Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the awards program itself will last from 7:00-9:00 p.m. For those who wish to extend merrymaking and networking activities, the ever-popular Afterglow – also sponsored by Ticona – will run from 9:00-11:00 p.m.

SPE's **Automotive Innovation Awards Program** is the largest competition of its kind in the world. Dozens of teams made up of OEMs, tier suppliers, and polymer producers submit nominations describing their part, system, or complete vehicle module and why it merits the claim as *Year's Most Innovative Use of Plastics*. This annual event typically draws 600-800 OEM engineers, automotive and plastics industry executives, and media. As is customary, funds raised from this event are used to support SPE educational efforts and technical seminars, which help to secure the role of plastics in the advancement of the automobile.

The mission of SPE International 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 for all phases of plastics and plastic based-composite developments in the global transportation industry. Topic areas include applications, materials, processing, equipment, tooling, design, and development.

For more information about the SPE **Automotive Innovation Awards Competition & Gala**, visit the SPE Automotive Division's website at www.speautomotive.com/inno.htm, or contact the group at +1.248.244.8993, or write SPE Automotive Division, 1800 Crooks Road, Suite A, Troy, MI 48084, USA. For more information on the Society of Plastics Engineers International or other SPE events, visit the SPE website at www.4spe.org, or call +1.203.775.0471.

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