



The Society of Plastics Engineers (“SPE”) Detroit Section and the 2020 SPE TPO Automotive Engineered Polyolefins Conference Planning Committee have been closely monitoring the Coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic. Our team has been reviewing responses at both the state and federal levels in order to assess the feasibility of our annually scheduled conference that was set to be held in October.

Unfortunately, it is our regret to inform you that we have made the decision to cancel this year’s event. This would have marked the 22nd consecutive year of the SPE TPO Automotive Engineered Polyolefins Conference.

In order to effectively come to this conclusion, a small cross-functional task force from the SPE TPO Automotive Steering Committee was formed in late March to conduct research. Multiple sources were contacted, and the team brainstormed various potential options for the 2020 event to come to fruition.

Even with a detailed feasibility analysis of each option, including the possibility of hosting a virtual event, the task force felt we could not provide the same value that our participants deserved. Factors such as recommended social distancing, group size allowances, logistics, atmosphere, financial costs and travel restrictions were all considered.

We recognize that a significant portion of the success of this conference is a result of the participation of our sponsors and exhibitors, in addition to our technical program and keynote speakers. After our careful analysis, we feel cancelling this year’s event will be the best decision for all involved. It is our mission to uphold and deliver the necessary values and tenets that have made this conference valuable for the last 20 years.

Again, this decision was made in the interest of the health and safety of our global attendees, speakers, sponsors, exhibitors, supporting partners and the 40+ voluntary members of the planning committee. We wanted to provide this communication with as much advance notice as possible and apologize for any inconvenience that this decision may cause.

If you are a sponsor or exhibitor for this event, you will receive separate communications regarding your purchase within the next few weeks. Planned speakers will also be contacted to discuss options for 2021.

We look forward to seeing you again for the 2021 event,

Neil Fuenmayor
Conference Co-Chair

John Haubert
Conference Co-Chair

Bill Windscheif
Conference Co-Chair

Laura Shereda
Detroit Section President