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Plastics in Automotive Engineering

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Foreword

In current new automotive developments the focus today is on topics such as lightweight design, resource efficiency, user benefits, aesthetic appeal as well as active and passive safety. Engineering plastics, fiber-reinforced composites and hybrid plastics technologies play an important role here as pacesetters.

In many cases, multifunctional tools and automated processing make system solutions possible which are of particular interest from the commercial point of view. New kinds of additive manufacturing processes already have a great potential for making individual, tailored component designs a reality, especially in low-volume production.

Innovations in plastic technologies have a direct influence on future concepts in the automotive field. Multimaterial design, hybrid solutions, flat heating systems for electric vehicles, in-mold laminated parts, laminated exterior components, and also plastic-based luminescent films and background lighting - these all make possible the delivery of customized system solutions in passenger car and commercial vehicle construction and thus in the long term secure international competitiveness in the plastics and automotive industries.

On 9th and 10th March 2016 in Mannheim the Association of German Engineers is hosting the international plastics conference ‘Plastics in Automotive Engineering 2016’. Strategic overview papers from research and the market, technical reports from the passenger car and commercial vehicles sectors concerning plastics innovations, as well as practical reports from the plastics processing sphere deliver detailed information about the state of the art in plastics technology in automotive engineering. A technical exhibition by plastics producers and machine manufacturers as also an accompanying auto show with the latest cars and commercial vehicles allow attendees to discuss technical points at the physical object itself.

We cordially welcome you to Mannheim!

Prof. Dr. Rudolf C. Stauber

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