



THERMOSET TOPCON
Madison, Wisconsin • May 9-10, 2023
Presented by SPE Thermoset Division



THERMOSETS: INITIATING OPPORTUNITIES

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SPE® THERMOSET DIV. ANNOUNCES SECOND KEYNOTE FOR TOPCON 2023:

**“SMC - SUCCESSES, CHALLENGES & RECENT INNOVATIONS AND THOUGHTS ON A PATH FORWARD”
WILL BE PRESENTED BY PROBIR GUHA, PRESIDENT, COMPOSITES INNOVATION INC.**

The SPE Thermoset Div. is announcing its second keynote speaker for their annual TopCon to be held on May 9 – 10, 2023 at the Monona Terrace and Convention Center in Madison, Wisconsin.

“SMC - SUCCESSES, CHALLENGES & RECENT INNOVATIONS AND THOUGHTS ON A PATH FORWARD”

will be presented by Probir Guha, President, Composites Innovation Inc. Over the last 50 years, Guha has seen and participated in the growth, changes and challenges faced by the composites industry. His keynote will include an overview of the SMC (Sheet Molding Compound) process and products, a review of technological innovations in the last 20 years, and key challenges and opportunities ahead in the composites industry.

“To improve performance and open up new opportunities for SMC, the industry will need to use continuous glass fibers with a focus on minimizing cycle time or maximizing throughput,” said Guha.

“There are also techniques in the textile industry that may be used to improve performance in a cost-effective manner,” continued Guha. Techniques from the textile industry allow for integrating smart devices and actuators into a molded composite component to add value that is not as easily and cost-effectively added via other technologies like stamping or casting,” added Guha. “I am eager to present this technology as a positive path forward to re-invent composites for the future!”

The SPE Thermoset TopCon 2023 will also feature technical presentations and exhibits highlighting advances in materials, processes, and equipment for thermoset technologies in electrical, automotive, off-highway, appliance, aerospace, building and construction, oil and gas, and other industries. The conference includes two full days of technical sessions with a networking breakfast, lunch and cocktail reception on May 9, and a networking breakfast and lunch on May 10. Optional social events, including a golf outing at University Ridge Golf Course and a tour of the Polymer Engineering Center (PEC) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison are offered on May 8, the day before the conference begins.

Conference Venue: Inspired by Wisconsin native Frank Lloyd Wright's design, at the peak of his creative powers in 1938, the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center is one of the country's premier conference and convention facilities. On the shores of Lake Monona, it is an architecturally striking structure that connects the state capital, the cityscape, and the community. The conference exhibits, meals and cocktail reception will be in the Community Terrace with pristine views of Lake Monona offering a relaxing and enjoyable experience. The presentations will be in the Lecture Hall offering comfortable theatre style seating, staging and professional audio-visual support. Special rates are provided for conference attendees at the Hilton Madison Monona Terrace which is connected via skywalk to the conference venue. See <https://www.mononaterrace.com> and <https://www3.hilton.com/> for more info.

Sponsors: SPE Thermoset TopCon 2023 sponsors to date include: Mar-Bal, Plenco (Plastics Engineering Company); IDI Composites International; LyondellBasell Industries; Core Molding Technologies; Glenwood Tool & Mold; Vibrantz Technologies; Huber Engineered Materials; ICT Molding Solutions; American Colors; Molding Products; Penn Compression; Owens Corning, Nabaltec AG, CompositesWorld, Plastics News and Urethanes Technology.

The mission of SPE is to promote scientific and engineering knowledge relating to composites worldwide and to educate industry, academia, and the public about the technological advances. SPE's Thermoset Division is active in educating, promoting, recognizing, and communicating technical accomplishments in thermoset technology in multiple industries. Topic areas include applications, materials, processing, equipment, tooling, design, and development. For more information see <https://spethermosets.org/topcon/> For more information on the **Society of Plastics Engineers**, see www.4spe.org.

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Probir Guha



Probir retired at the end of 2021 after an illustrious career in the composites industry mostly with companies including [The Budd Company](#), [Continental Structural Plastics](#) and [Coats](#).

Over the almost 50-year career, he has held leadership positions in various companies during his career. During this period, Probir has participated in key innovations in the field as borne out by his many global patents; participated in industry technical conferences presenting several papers and holding committee leadership positions; was recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2022 from the SPE Automotive Division; an industry award received for innovation, research and advancements with the [2019 Pioneer Award by The American Composites Manufacturers Association \(ACMA\)](#); and has edited a book where he coordinated the efforts industry and academic experts in the field to share concepts of how to further the composites industry

However, the 'retirement' has been short-lived! Probir has recently formed a technology consulting company, Composites Innovations Inc., to continue to pursue efforts on cost effective light weighting of products using composites, thus bringing the adoption of lightweight materials across more and more applications.

In this new role as a technology consultant, Probir is looking to establish composites as the primary material of choice in automotive applications with special focus on innovations in

- sustainability & recyclability of composites,
- use of continuous and hybrid fibers,
- smart composite technologies,
- & Use of artificial intelligence in products and for continuous improvement

- **Education**

- [Bachelors in Chemical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, India](#)
- [Masters in Polymer Engineering from the University of Detroit, Michigan](#)
- [Masters in Business Administration from the Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan.](#)

- **Patents**

- [179 patents issued & pending globally as of June 19, 2022](#)
(https://patentscope.wipo.int/search/en/result.jsf?_vid=P22-LOKW9U-65948)
- The body of innovations include
 - CSP / ThyssenKrupp Budd:
 - [Development and launch of TCA \(Tough Class 'A' SMC\) for automotive body panels \(Ford, GM & Chrysler\)](#)
 - [Development and launch of a structural SMC for use in the industry first Composite Pickup Box \(Ford Sport Trac & Toyota Tacoma\)](#)
 - Numerous materials & process innovations in Fiber reinforced composites
 - Use of Carbon Fiber for cost effective light weighting
 - [A process to reclaim Carbon Fiber from end-of-life cycle composite components](#)
 - Coats
 - Bringing textile expertise into mainstream composites applications with near net shape preforms using hybrid fibers & molded-in features and smart features to eliminate post-mold steps to a final product

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