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SPE® THERMOSET DIV. ANNOUNCES FIRST KEYNOTE FOR TOPCON 2025: “[Making a Compelling Case for Thermosets](#)”

The SPE Thermoset Div. is announcing its first keynote speaker for their annual TopCon event to be held on May 13 – May 14, 2025, at the Monona Terrace and Convention Center in Madison, WI. “[Making a Compelling Case for Thermosets](#)” will be presented by Amanda Nummy, Senior Polymer Engineer at Hyundai America Technical Center. Her keynote will give an overview of Hyundai Motor Group and the role of materials, with a particular focus on sustainability goals and strategies. An automotive case study will be analyzed, highlighting the decision criteria leading to support of thermoset applications. The latest industry trends and advancements around thermoset strengths and challenges will also be explored, and insights will be provided on the material selection process and holistic design strategies, emphasizing a systems-level approach to increasing impact and balancing multiple objectives.

“Thermoset material and manufacturing technologies oftentimes are the most feasible way to optimize both cost and weight while meeting performance criteria,” said Nummy. “For example, to support the development of a lightweight pickup truck bed design, a cross-functional team objectively explored the latest materials and manufacturing technologies considering a variety of alternatives for each functional area of the bed - and thermoset technologies prevailed, added Nummy. “This holistic approach to next-generation polymer composite pickup bed development and prototyping is being applied as a model in our research going forward and showing promise for thermoset technology at Hyundai.”

The SPE Thermoset TopCon 2025 will also feature technical presentations and exhibits highlighting advances in materials, processes, and equipment for thermoset technologies in multiple applications. The 2-day conference includes networking breakfasts, lunches, and a cocktail reception. Optional social events, including a tour of the Polymer Engineering Center at UW – Madison, golf outing at University Ridge Golf Course, and a sunset dinner cruise on Lake Monona (weather permitting) are offered on May 12, the day before the conference begins.

A variety of exhibit and non-exhibit sponsorship packages including passes to the event and opportunities for company exposure are also available. Companies interested in showcasing their products and/or services via sponsorship or exhibiting, and individuals interested in registering to attend the event should go to <https://spethermosets.org/topcon/> for more info or contact Teri Chouinard at intuitgroup@gmail.com.



Keynote Speaker Bio: Amanda Nummy

Amanda Nummy is a senior polymer engineer with a decade of experience in the automotive industry, trailblazing holistic design approaches to material selection and use, and bringing creativity from nature-inspired innovation. She earned a bachelor's degree in Polymer, Textile, and Fiber Engineering from Georgia Tech, a master's degree in Materials Science and Engineering from Wayne State University, and master's degree in Biomimicry from Arizona State University. She also recently earned her Professional Certification in biomimicry, one of only 110 individuals globally that have achieved this level of expertise in the emerging field, leading and facilitating a new design thinking methodology for sustainability and regenerative practices across multi-disciplinary teams. In her current role, she is responsible for plant support and application development of all plastic components for North and South America, and leads several global collaborations for fuel cell and battery electric vehicle development. Notable research and product development experience throughout her career includes hydrogen and biomedical fuel cells, specialty textiles, nanomaterials, carbon capture, built environment design, advanced processing and recycling technologies, reclaimed ocean plastics, recycled single-use PPE waste for automotive use, automotive shredder residue circularity, thermal runaway test method development, and lightweight composites. She is the author of several papers published within the industry, and has given technical presentations, keynote speeches, and guest lectures to diverse audiences around the world, advocating for the thoughtful and responsible use of polymeric materials and alternative energy as part of the complex system of solutions that will be needed to ensure a sustainable future.

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 2025 sponsors to date include: Plenco; Mar-Bal; IDI Composites; LyondellBasell; Omya, Johns Manville, Composites One; Technick Products; ICT Molding Solutions, American Colors, Neptune Nano; Penn Compression Moulding, Inc.; Cimbar Resources.

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.