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SPE® Thermoset Topcon 2025 Showcased Cutting-Edge Advances in Thermoset Technologies with More Sponsorships and Registrations than Previous Years

SPE® Thermoset TopCon 2025 included 30 Sponsorships and/or Exhibits (27 in 2024), Nearly 200 Registrations (172 in 2024) 19 Technical Presentations, Five Student Posters, Two Keynote Addresses and an Executive Roundtable.

The SPE® Thermoset TopCon conference was held May 13 – 14, 2025 at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison, Wisconsin.

The annual SPE® Thermoset TopCon is produced by the SPE Thermoset Division. It was a valuable event to exhibitors/sponsors and attendees representing OEMs, Tier Suppliers, Academia and other composites industry professionals.

“Thank you to everyone who attended the 2025 SPE Thermoset TopCon conference and to our sponsors and board members who made the conference possible,” said Sean Campbell, SPE Thermoset TopCon Chair & Commercial Director – Engineering Composites at LyondellBasell (LYB). “Our board was pleased to see terrific feedback from the surveys we shared with attendees, with many noting how valuable this conference is for the thermoset industry. We are already looking forward to next year’s event May 12-13, 2026 back in Madison, WI at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center.”

A number of thermoset leaders from industry provided direction and support for the event:

- Sean Campbell, Sales and New Business Development Manager Advanced Polymer Solutions - Engineered Composites at LyondellBasell, and 2023-2026 SPE Thermoset Division TopCon Chair
- Len Nunnery, V.P. Marketing, Sales & Technical Service at Plastics Engineering Company (Plenco), and SPE Thermoset Division Counselor
- Andrew Stroh, Global Marketing & USCAN Business Manager at LyondellBasell, and SPE Thermoset Division Secretary
- Aleah Ryan, Staff Accountant at Plastics Engineering Company (Plenco), and SPE Thermoset Division Treasurer
- Walter Schutz, President of ICT Molding Solutions, and SPE Thermoset Division Membership Chair
- Glade Squires, Product Manager at Omya Specialty Materials, and SPE Thermoset Division Board Member
- Greg Spaeth, Project Engineer at Plastics Engineering Company (Plenco), and SPE Thermoset Division Board Member
- Tom Haag, President of Engineering, Quality and Sales for Fox Valley Molding, and SPE Thermoset Division Board Member
- Dale Silvernell, Senior Manager at IDI Composites International, and SPE Thermoset Division Board Member
- Vinod Arora, Director of Materials and Technology at Core Molding Technologies, and SPE Thermoset Division Board Member
- Alec Redman, Product Development Specialist at sensXPERT - technology by NETZSCH, and SPE Thermoset Division Board Member
- Rick Faulk, Product Manager at Mar-Bal and SPE Thermoset Division Former TopCon Chair

Teri Chouinard, President of Intuit Group, provided leadership as the SPE Thermoset TopCon Marketing Chair and provided administrative support for the technical program and event management overall.

Keynotes presented at the Thermoset TopCon 2025 event included:

“Making a Compelling Case for Thermosets” by Amanda Nummy, Hyundai and “Why I Chose Thermoset Over Thermoplastic for My Underground Water Storage System” by Joe Miskovich, Triton Stormwater Solutions. Both keynotes were well attended by conference attendees and provided valuable knowledge and insight to the speakers' respective topics.

An executive roundtable discussion on the state of the industry today, including changes over the past 12 months and what is driving the changes, and markets for growth for their companies and the industry over the next five years added knowledgeable industry perspective to the conference and was well received by attendees. The discussion was moderated by Sean Campbell, SPE Thermoset TopCon Chair & Commercial Director – Engineering Composites at LyondellBasell (LYB) Panelists included Cindy L. Squires, President & CEO of the American

Composites Manufacturers Association (ACMA), Scott Eastman, President of SPE: Inspiring Plastics Professionals, Leon Garoufalidis, President & CEO of Composites One, Scott Balogh, President & CEO of Mar-Bal and Len Nunnery, V.P. Marketing, Sales & Technical Service at Plastics Engineering Company (Plenco).

The Thermoset TopCon 2025 technical program included 19 presentations on advances in the following categories: Materials, Business, Molding, Application, Sustainability, and Additives.

The following technical presentations were included in the program:

- "Machine Learning-Accelerated Molecular Design of Innovative Polymers: Shifting from Thomas Edison to Iron Man" by Ying Li, UW-Madison
- "China Disrupts the Global Antimony Oxide Market and Flame Retardant Costs Skyrocket" by Glade Squires, Omya
- "Slitting SMC or Dry Fiber Fabrics More Efficiently" by Christian Fais, Fmtec Solutions
- "Enhancing Compression Molding of Rubber with Moldex3D Simulation and AI Technology" by Harshal Bhogesra, Moldex 3D
- "High Performance SMCs for Extreme Thermal and FST Applications" by Henry Sadano, Trimer Technologies
- "Biodegradable Chitin Nanowhisker Reinforcement in Epoxy:A Thermal and Mechanical Property Analysis" by Aaron Guan, Neptune Nano
- "Optimizing Thermoset Consistency: Minimizing Variability Through Cure Control" by Dr. Alexander Chaloupka, NETZSCH Process Intelligence GmbH
- "The State of the Composites Industry" by Cindy Squires, ACMA
- "State of the Society Overview and Outlook" by Scott Eastman, SPE
- "2025 Composites Market Vision" by Paul Salach, Owens Corning
- "Demystifying Dielectric Data - Correlating the Dielectric Response with Thermoset Curing" by Jeff Grotto, InnoCentrix
- "Understanding Loss Factor/Ion Viscosity in Dielectric Cure Monitoring" by Huan Lee, Lambient Technologies
- "Next Generation High-Temperature Composites for Demanding Applications" by Adam Tomasik, LyondellBasell
- "Advancements In Thermoset Composites for Automotive Lighting Applications" by Chris Cugini, LyondellBasell
- "Composite Body Panel Construction for Extreme Lightweighting Technologies" by Mike Siwajek, Teijin Automotive
- "Co-Molding Compound - SMC Made Better with Braid" by Rob Holcombe & Zachary Cahill, IDI Composites & A&PTechnology
- "FireStrong® Fiberglass Reinforced Polymer (FRP) Distribution and Transmission Poles" by Dustin Troutman, Creative Pultrusions
- "Department of Energy Program Provides Roadmap to Measurable Carbon Emissions" by Tyler Rodey, Plenco
- "New Engineered Mineral Solutions for Composites" by Jenelle Sams & Rahul Doke, Imerys

Four students from the North Dakota State University and a student from the University of Wisconsin - Madison featured innovative research related to thermosets via the annual Student Poster Competition.

This year's winner was "In-Nozzle Impregnation-Based 3D Printing of Thermoset Composites Using a UV light Assisted Printing Process" by Prashant Lakhemaru, PhD Student, Department of Mechanical Engineering at North Dakota State University.

The fun kicked off early this year on Monday May 12, the day before the conference started with a day filled with networking and social activities around Madison. Golf in the morning at the University Ridge Golf Course was enjoyed by 26 players. Close to a dozen attendees toured the Plastics Engineering Center (PEC) at University of Wisconsin – Madison. A fun and beautiful sunset boat ride around Lake Monona with dinner and ice cream was enjoyed by 16 attendees.

The 2025 SPE Thermoset Topcon was made possible by the support of sponsors including:

Reception Sponsor: Plastics Engineering Company (Plenco)

Lunch Sponsors: Mar-Bal & Omya Specialty Materials

Breakfast Sponsors: IDI Composites International & LyondellBasell

Platinum Sponsors: Composites One, Owens Corning, Zehrco-Giancola Composites

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Visit <https://spethermosets.org/topcon/> for more info on the event.

The mission of [SPE \(Society of Plastics Engineers\)](#) is to promote scientific and engineering knowledge relating to plastics/polymers worldwide and to educate industry, academia, and the public about technological advances. The [SPE Thermoset Division](#) (a specialized technical division of SPE) is active in educating, promoting, recognizing, and communicating technical advancements in thermoset technology in multiple industries.

The next Thermoset Topcon is scheduled for May 12 – 13, 2026 at the same venue as the 2025 event - the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison, Wisconsin. An "Early Bird Discount" is available to sponsors who commit to supporting the Thermoset TopCon 2026 event in 2025 and process payment by December 31, 2025. For more info contact Intuitgroup@gmail.com

Attention Editors: Photos are available for download via: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjCfWFU>