

ATTACHMENT: SPE Thermoforming Division logo

Contact for SPE: Travis Kieffer +1 563-357-9093, travisk@plasticsunlimited.com
Press Contact: Bob Martino +1 203-321-0787, bob@martinocommunications.com

For Immediate Release

SPE THERMOFORMING DIVISION ANNOUNCES NEW CATEGORIES IN ITS ANNUAL PARTS COMPETITION CALL FOR ENTRIES

CAROL STREAM, IL, U.S.A., June 10, 2019: The Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) Thermoforming Division has announced a call for entries in its annual Parts Competition, including two new categories that will feature the latest advances in thermoforming design and application. The submission deadline is *August 16, 2019*.

Competition entries will be displayed on the exhibit hall floor during the 27th SPE Thermoforming Conference®, which will be held September 9-11 at the Wisconsin Center and Hilton Milwaukee City Center Hotel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Awards for winning parts will be presented at the SPE Thermoforming Awards Dinner on Tuesday, September 10, at the Hotel.

Competition entrants may submit parts in four categories:

- *Roll-fed* categories are Industrial, Medical, or Food.
- *Heavy-gauge* categories are Vacuum Form, Pressure Form, Twin Sheet and TPO.
- Two new categories this year are *Parts Produced with Recycled/Sustainable Materials* and *Parts Produced Using Automation and New Technology*.

“Challenges often arise as companies employ more automation and rely on fewer personnel during part production,” said Travis Kieffer, 2019 SPE Thermoforming Conference Parts Competition Chair. “Companies now look to automation to fill the dearth of skilled personnel required for production. Since the skilled labor shortage is a pervasive problem in the thermoforming industry, we are soliciting parts that have met and overcome this challenge by successfully engaging automation during the parts production process.”

Guidelines for Competition entrants and the required product entry form are posted online at <https://thermoformingdivision.com/parts-competition/guidelinesentry-form/>. All product images and descriptions must be emailed to Travis Kieffer at travisk@plasticsunlimited.com by the August 16 deadline.

Full information on the Parts Competition and the Thermoforming Conference is available at <https://thermoformingdivision.com> or by contacting Lesley Kyle at 1-914-671-9524 or lesley@openmindworks.com.

###

THE SPE THERMOFORMING DIVISION is a technical division of the Society of Plastics Engineers, based in Bethel, CT. The Thermoforming Division's mission is to facilitate the advancement of thermoforming technologies through education, application, promotion and research. The Division hosts an annual educational conference and publishes an award-winning technical journal, *SPE Thermoforming Quarterly*®. The Division has also funded over \$275K in equipment grants and tens of thousands of dollars in undergraduate scholarships since it was first formed. For more information, please visit <https://thermoformingdivision.com>.