

**PHOTOS ATTACHED: 1. Student RC Racetrack; 2 Student Participants; 3. SPE Thermoforming Division logo. See captions below.**

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**For Immediate Release**

**SPE ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF INAUGURAL STUDENT RADIO CONTROLLED CAR RACE AND DESIGN COMPETITION**

CAROL STREAM, IL, U.S.A., October 15, 2018: The Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) Thermoforming Division has announced the winners of its inaugural student radio controlled car race and design competition.

Students from six schools in the U.S. and Germany were charged with designing, manufacturing and decorating the bodies of radio controlled cars furnished by the Division with support from corporate sponsors. The car body had to be formed using clear plastic, such as PET, PETG, acrylic or polycarbonate, and produced using the vacuum/thermoforming process.

Students also participated in a race conducted on a built-to-specification indoor racetrack located on the exhibit hall floor during the Thermoforming Division's annual conference, held September 24-26 in Fort Worth, TX.

Cash prizes were awarded in three different categories: People's Choice, Best Design and the race itself. This year's winners are:

● ***First Place, "People's Choice," Best Design and the Race: Ryan Fuller and Karina Patricia, Georgia Tech.***

● ***People's Choice; Best Design; and First Place in the Race: Ryan Fuller and Karina Patricia, both of Georgia Tech.***

● ***Second Place in the Race: Max Schoch, ILLIG Apprentice Program.***

"The goal of the competition was to encourage students to consider a career in thermoforming by engaging them in a fun design project," noted Mark Strachan, former SPE Thermoforming Division Chair and organizer of the Student RC Car Race and Competition. "The students' enthusiasm for this project was contagious, and it was especially rewarding to see the students forging those all-important connections with their corporate sponsors. We expect even greater student and corporate participation in future competitions."

More information is available at <https://thermoformingdivision.com> or by contacting Lesley Kyle at 1-914-671-9524 or [lesley@openmindworks.com](mailto:lesley@openmindworks.com)

**Photo Captions:**

- 1) Custom-extruded race track designed and fabricated by Mark Strachan.**
- 2) Group photo of student participants, with former SPE Thermoforming Division chair Mark Strachan in front of group.**

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THE SPE THERMOFORMING DIVISION is a technical chapter 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>.