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## **Plasan Carbon Composites nabs Society for Plastics Engineers Automotive Innovation Award with help from Ashland Performance Materials' Pliogrip™ structural adhesives**

DUBLIN, Ohio - Ashland Performance Materials, a commercial unit of Ashland Inc. (NYSE: ASH), is pleased to announce that its customer, Plasan Carbon Composites, has received 2012 Automotive Innovation Award from the Society for Plastics Engineers (SPE). Plasan Carbon was recognized Body Exterior category for its work on the carbon composite hood assembly for the OEM Make & Model: Chrysler Group LLC 2013 model year SRT Viper\*. Ashland's Pliogrip structural adhesives were used as part of this award-winning project.

For the 42nd consecutive year, SPE recognized plastics innovation in ground transportation in the following categories: Body Exterior, Body Interior, Chassis/Hardware, Materials, Performance & Customization, Powertrain, Process/Assembly/Enabling Technologies, and Safety.

This hood assembly is a Class A carbon fiber reinforced plastics part with a large complex clamshell geometry. The part represents the largest Class A carbon fiber composite part provided to a mainstream OEM. Design, tooling, and fabrication technologies from both marine and aerospace were employed for the first time in automotive to facilitate layup of the complex geometry with severe undercuts. Local section thickness was varied to meet structural requirements. The final part, incorporating fenders as well as hood, is 44 percent lighter than the previous hood-only assembly in SMC, helping improve weight distribution and lower the vehicle's center of gravity, for better vehicle dynamics and power-to-weight ratio.

A new Pliogrip two-part structural polyurethane adhesive from Ashland Performance Materials was used to bond the structural inner supports to the Class A outer panels. The Pliogrip adhesive was selected for two tangible performance benefits. First, it passed the Chrysler Group's stringent specification without any surface preparation on the bonded surfaces, thereby avoiding costly primer or scuff steps in production. Second, the Pliogrip adhesive minimized bond line read-through on the cosmetic Class A surfaces.

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