

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**November 2005**

**SPE THERMOFORMING DIVISION PROVIDES LARGE DONATION  
TO NATIONAL PLASTICS CENTER**

*New PlastiVan, new computers, matching funds, and new thermoforming equipment included*

**Leominster, MA** – The National Plastics Center (NPC) received a boost from the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) Thermoforming Division to further their educational outreach program in several ways.

SPE's Thermoforming Division has donated the following to The National Plastics Center:

- **A new van for the Center's PlastiVan program**, an internationally acclaimed education program geared for students in grades three through twelve that travels throughout the United States, teaching students, educators and the public about the chemistry, history, processing and environmental issues involved with plastics. With this new van, the Center now has four vans to accomplish their mission. SPE's Thermoforming Division also donated **new thermoforming equipment for each of the four PlastiVans**.
- **Brand new computers** for The National Plastics Center's Outreach Department.
- **\$10,000 in matching funds** for Thermoforming members.
- **A new thermoforming exhibit** that will soon be a part of the other plastics educational displays at NPC.

"SPE's Thermoforming Division has always supported our outreach program from day one, in fact they were the recipients of the of the NPC Outstanding Service Award in 2002, but this is above and beyond what we expected," says Marjorie Weiner, NPC's outreach director. "Our outreach program will greatly benefit from their generosity, and thus the story of plastics will get heard by a wider audience as a result."

"We're happy to support the National Plastics Center as it meets our mission of reaching the next generation so that we can develop new young polymer scientists and plastics technicians vital to the future of the plastics industry" says Roger Kipp, SPE's Thermoforming Division's Chair and Vice President of McClarin Plastics Inc. "Steve Murrill of Profile Plastics deserves much of the credit for being the original champion behind this donation effort to the NPC and their PlastiVan program."

A formal presentation of the scope of the donation was made at SPE's recent Thermoforming Conference held in Milwaukee.

**About The National Plastics Center**

The National Plastics Center (NPC), based in Leominster, Massachusetts, is a non-profit institution that is dedicated towards the utilization of sound scientific and educational principles to increase the public's understanding of the valuable contributions that plastics make in the quality of our lives. NPC's educational staff has supported this mission throughout the years by conducting hands-on science programming for schools, organizations and the plastics community. Incorporated in 1982, the NPC offers a rich and diverse experience for visitors of all ages. For more information, please visit [www.plasticmuseum.org](http://www.plasticmuseum.org).

**About SPE**

The Society of Plastics Engineers, Inc. (SPE) is the premier source of peer-reviewed technical information for plastics professionals. Founded in 1942, SPE takes action every day to help companies in the plastics industry succeed by spreading knowledge, strengthening skills and promoting plastics. Employing these vital strategies, SPE has helped the plastics industry thrive for over 60 years. SPE has become the recognized medium of communication among scientists, engineers and technical personnel engaged in the development, conversion and application of plastics. For more information, please visit [www.4spe.org](http://www.4spe.org).