WELCOME TO THE SPE FOAMS® 2026 CONFERENCE

Hosted by the SPE Thermoplastic Materials & Foams Division and partner with Foam Expo.

The FOAMS® 2026 conference will be held June 22-25, 2026 in Novi, MI, USA. This international conference, sponsored by SPE's Thermoplastic Materials & Foams division, is the premier forum related to new developments in foaming technologies.

New materials, processes, equipment and foaming agents are being continually developed for foam applications. Finding more sustainable polymers and more efficient foaming processes for novel foam applications that meet the needs of consumers is a top priority for foam research and manufacturing industry.

The SPE Foams® 2026 conference will address the above key issues with 30 presentations by leading researchers from industry, academia and national labs. The program features world-renowned speakers presenting technical papers on innovations in foam processing, novel blowing agents, micro- and nano-cellular foams, circularity, biodegradable foams, additive manufacturing with special emphasis on potential industrial applications.

For those new to the foams area, SPE FOAMS® Tutorials will be held prior to the conference June 22-23, 2026.

Conference Chairs:
Xiaoxi Wang
Perry Vadhar

Technical Program Chairs:
Prof. Miguel A. Rodríguez Pérez
Prof. Patrick Lee
Wenyi Huang

SPE FOAMS® Tutorials:
Prof. Chul B. Park
Anson Wong
Prof. Ernesto Di Maio
Kimberly Mcloughlin
Ashutosh Sharma
Perry Vadhar

VENUE INFORMATION

Vibe Credit Union Showplace
46100 Grand River Ave, Novi, MI

Hotel Room Reservation

https://www.foam-expo.com/hotels-2026

STUDENTS INFORMATION

Poster Session

If you are a graduate or undergraduate student conducting research related to polymer foam, consider participating in the SPE FOAMS® 2026 Student Poster Session.

Benefits

- **Free admission** to FOAMS® 2026 conference.
- An opportunity to win a **Best Poster Award** up to $500.
- An opportunity to win up to $750 in travel reimbursement via the **SPE Thermoplastic Materials & Foams Division Ananda Chatterjee Travel Awards. (See below for details)**
- Opportunities to network with fellow students, peers, and thousands of experts in the field of foams.
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How to Participate

- Submit a 100 to 200-word abstract including title, authors, and affiliation to Dr. Ryan Hall rhall3@dow.com and Prof. Judith Martín de León jmadeleon@fmc.uva.es by **June 8, 2026.**
- Create a poster that will fit in a 48" tall 36" wide space (you will receive an email concerning details on poster mounting).
- Print your poster and bring it to the first day of the conference.

TPM&F "Ananda Chatterjee" Travel Awards

$750 scholarships are offered for selected undergraduate /graduate students in plastics/foams area attending the SPE FOAMS® 2026 Conference.

Eligibility Requirements

- Must be full-time undergraduate or graduate students.
- Must major in or take courses relevant to a career in the plastics/polymer industry.
- Good academic standing with their schools (GPA > 3.0).
- Must attend the SPE FOAMS®2026 conference.

How to Apply

Applicants should apply by April 1, 2026 to Dr. Ryan Hall, and Prof. Judíth Martin de León, including:

- One-page statement of your qualifications, educational and career goals in the plastics/foams industry.
- 100 to 200-word explanation for why you want to attend SPE FOAMS® 2026.
- High school and/or college transcripts for the past 2 years.

SPE FOAMS Conference & Tutorials

Register online, become a sponsor, submit a student application and get latest conference program updates on the conference website

https://4spe.org/foams2026

SPONSORS INFORMATION

Sponsorship Levels		
Gold	$2,500	• 1 Pass to the conference • Literature/giveaways at registration • Banner recognition
Poster Session / Reception Sponsor	$1,500	• 50% on conference registration • Literature/giveaways at registration • Banner recognition
Award Luncheon Sponsor	$1000	• Tent card at break tables • Literature/giveaways at registration • Banner recognition
Breaks (AM and PM)	$500 per Break	• Tent card at break tables • Banner Recognition

ATTENDEES REGISTRATION

Tutorial ONLY	Early Rate	Standard
(June 22-23, 2026)	(ends 5/15)	(starts 5/16)
SPE Member	$400	$600
Nonmember	$600	$800
Student	$100	$100
Conference ONLY	**Early Rate**	**Standard**
(June 24-25, 2026)	(ends 5/15)	(starts 5/16)
SPE Member	$450	$650
Nonmember	$650	$850
Conference Committee / Speakers (Discount code required)	$200	$200
Students without Posters	$100	$100
Students with Posters (Discount code required)	Free	Free
Tutorial & Conference	**Early Rate**	**Standard**
((June 22-25, 2026)	(ends 5/15)	(starts 5/16)
SPE Member	$700	$1000
Conference Committee / Speakers (Discount code required)	$500	$600
Nonmember	$1050	$1450
Nonmember Speakers (Discount code required)	$600	$800

Refund Policy:
Full refunds, minus a $50 processing fee, will be granted until May 22, 2026.
No refunds or transfer will be granted after May 23, 2026.

SPE FOAMS® 2026 TUTORIALS

Tutorial Chair: Prof. Chul B. Park

Purpose

This tutorial provides practical, industry-focused training to strengthen your capabilities in polymer foaming. Attendees will learn how foams are designed, processed, and optimized—from fundamentals of cell nucleation to sustainability strategies, innovative blowing agents, and advanced foam processing technologies. Attendees gain actionable knowledge they can apply immediately, plus updated reference materials on plastic foams.

June 22, 2026 — 8:00–12:00 — Foam Fundamentals

(Instructor: Dr. Anson Wong)

1. Introduction of foams – Types, properties, and applications
2. Foaming fundamentals - Cell nucleation, growth, stabilization
3. Foaming agent and polymer design
4. Foam processing overview

June 22, 2026 — 13:00–17:00 — Engineered Foams

(Instructor: Prof. Ernesto Di Maio)

1. Foam morphology evolution and setting
2. Foam Processing
3. Advanced Foams
4. Polyurethane foams

June 23, 2026 — 8:00–12:00 — Sustainability in Foams

(Instructors: Dr. Kim McLoughlin, Dr. Ashutosh Sharma, Mr. Perry Vadhar)

1. Beginning of Life: Materials Selection (Renewable polymers; improved foaming agents)
2. Processing and use (Process and product design for sustainability; regulatory compliance)
3. End of Life (Recycling technologies & mass balance approach)
4. Challenges & Opportunities: Panel discussion

About the Instructors

Dr. Anson Wong — Senior Lead Scientist, DuPont. Dr. Wong leads development of advanced foam technologies including the latest low GWP Styrofoam™ insulation products. He has 20 years of R&D experience, earning major honors including the R&D100, ACS Heroes of Chemistry, and ACC Sustainability Leadership Award.

Prof. Ernesto Di Maio — Full Professor, University of Naples Federico II. Prof. Di Maio directs the Foamlab research group and is a leading expert in engineered foams, nanocomposites, and advanced processing. He has authored 100+ papers and holds multiple patents.

Dr. Kim McLoughlin — Principal Engineer, Braskem and SPE Fellow. Dr. McLoughlin leads sustainable materials innovation and directs DOE-funded projects on recycling EVA foams. She has extensive experience in product development, IP strategy, and circular materials technologies.

Mr. Parimal (Perry) Vadhar — Engineering Research Fellow, Sealed Air Corporation. Perry leads development of sustainable packaging foams and films, with 27+ years of R&D leadership. He is a long-serving SPE TPM&F board member and past division chair.

Dr. Ashutosh Sharma — Senior Manager (Ret.), SABIC; former Director of Technology at multiple global firms. Dr. Sharma is an expert in polymer additives, surface modification, and engineering resins. He has served in numerous leadership roles within SPE and international scientific organizations.

SPE FOAMS® 2026 TECHNICAL PROGRAM

Wednesday June 24th, 2026

8:30AM – 8:40 AM	Welcome / Conference Opening. Xiaoxi Wang. The Boeing Company	
8:40AM – 9:25 AM	Plenary Talk – The Future of Protective Packaging	Byron Racki. President of Protective, Sealed Air
9:25AM – 10:25AM	Session 1: Extrusion foaming	
	Foam extrusion. A controlled process	Dave Molloy (Promix)
	Foam Extrusion of Polyester Based Material with Nano-additive	Tianran Chen (DuPont)
	Biobased and Biodegradable PHA Based Products for Extrusion	Akanksha Patel (CJ Biomaterials)
10:50AM – 12:30PM	Session 2: Elastomeric Foams	
	Insights into the mechanisms underlying the high-cycle fatigue	Paolo Iaccarino (U. Naples: Federico II, Italy)
	Development Strategies for Multilayer Polymeric Foam Structures with Enhanced Shock-Absorbing Performance	Márton Tomin (Budapest U. Technology, Hungary)
	Humidity-Programmed Cellular Structure and Circularity in Boronic-Ester EVA Vitrimers	Jesús Fernández (CellMat Lab-U. Valladolid)
	Enhancing Foaming Performance of Linear Polypropylene-based Elastomer Foams Through Ionic Modification	Mahmoud Embabi (U. Toronto, Canada)
12:10PM – 1:20PM	Lunch Break	
1:20PM – 2:40PM	Session 3: Low density Thermoplastic Foams	
	Low density PP foam - Are we ready for lightweight, future proof and sustainable solutions?	Antti Tynys (Borouge International)
	Improving Dimensional Consistency and Processing Robustness of Expanded Polypropylene Foams for Automotive Applications	Joshua Parker (JSP)
	The 'DryBead' Value Chain for eco-efficient Production and Refinement of new Particle Foams	Jörg Vetter (Fox Velution)
	High-Power and High-Energy E-beam as Continuous Reactor for Tailored Long-Chain Branched Polymers Enabling Lightweight Foams	Marin Steenackers (Iba Group)
3:00PM – 4:20PM	Session 4: Advanced Characterization	
	Acoustic probing of stiffness in micro and nanocellular PMMA: role of structure beyond cell size	Judith Martín de Leon (CellMat Lab-U. Valladolid)
	A Novel PVT-Based Method for Measuring Gas Diffusivity in Polymer Melts	Shu-Kai Yeh (NTUST, Taiwan)
	TEM and FIB-SEM cryo-tomography in nanocellular polymers	Jorge Torre (CellMat Lab-U. Valladolid)
	Geometry-controlled indentation response of low-density polystyrene foam: A 3D simulation study	Jameel Ahmed, North Dakota State University
4:20PM – 5:30PM	Poster Session	

Thursday June 25th, 2026

8:30AM – 9:15AM	Plenary Talk – Taking Flight: Developing and Transitioning Materials for Aerospace Applications	Todd E. Steyer. Chief Engineer, Engineering & Technology Innovation (E&TI), Boeing
9:15AM – 11:15AM	Session 5: Foams in industrial applications	
	Improving reprocessability of automotive polyurethane foam via incorporation of covalent adaptable networks (CANs)	Xiaojiang Wang (Ford)
	Advancing Lightweight Plastics Through Next-Generation Foaming Technology	Abolfazl Mohebbi (Moxietec)
	New Safety Standards for Expanding Insulation Foam Products Packaged in Pressurized Cylinders	Bill Frauenheim (Diversified CPC International)
	Forever Young XPS: Performance, Sustainability, and Code Compliance for the 21st Century Buildings and Beyond	Valentina Woodcraft (DuPont)
	Resolving Structure–Property Discrepancies in Extruded Polystyrene Foam	Ray Varona (Kingspan)
	Starch as raw materials in Foam Industry	Fengqiu Fan (Primient)
11:15AM – 12:35PM	Award ceremony luncheon	
12:35PM – 2:15PM	Session 6: Advanced Cellular Polymers	
	Tunable structural morphologies of PMMA porous materials: from aerogels to foams	Antonio Largo (CellMat Lab-U. Valladolid)
	Potential of Aerogel Technology Combined with Foam Materials to Address Challenges in the Electric Vehicle Market	Thomas Koch (Armacell)
	Influence of CO2 sorption/desorption on the glassy state and mechanical behavior of nanocellular polyetherimide	Felix Lizalde Arroyo (CellMat Lab-U. Valladolid)
	Multi-layered, multi-structured mono-material parts	Ernesto Di Maio (U. Naples: Federico II)
	Halogen free-flame retarded PU foams – Making old folks invincible	Cristina Saiz Arroyo (CellMat Technologies)
2:45PM – 3:25PM	Session 7: Silicone Foams	
	Understanding Formulation Sensitivity in Silicone Foams: Effects of Trace Impurities on Cure Kinetics and Cell Morphology	Jiannan Dong (Rogers Corporation)
	Overview of Compression Force, Sealability, and Stress Retention for Silicone Foam Gaskets	Josh Hand (DOW)
3:25PM – 4.10 PM	Plenary Talk – Navigating Challenging Chemical Markets - Foam Raw Material Outlook	Max Negrin. Director Chemical Consulting, S&P Global Energy