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The 16th annual SPE Thermoforming Conference, sponsored by the SPE Thermoforming Division, took place at the Nashville Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee, September 17-20. Highlighting the important role of “Creativity & Innovation in Thermoforming,” the Conference included exhibits representing more than 90 companies that provide products and services to the thermoforming industry worldwide. Nine hundred attendees registered for the event, which included workshops, an outstanding technical program, and the Parts Competition and Showcase.

THERMOFORMING **Creativity & Innovation**

Industrial Packaging Award

A water and sound-deadening shield for car-door assembly, manufactured using the inline thermoforming process, won the Industrial Packaging Award. Production tooling, designed by Amros Industries and built by Amros and Waugs, Inc., consists of a water-cooled aluminum mold and temperature-controlled plug assist. The need to simultaneously form and bond two materials—polyester fiber and polyethylene foam—presented the foremost challenge in manufacturing this product. During the forming process, the two layers of materials are preheated to different



temperatures and formed into dissimilar profiles on the top and bottom layers. Part functionality depends on achieving a permanent bond between materials.