

*South Carolina ranked #3 in automotive manufacturing strength in U.S....*

## ***IEEE INTERNATIONAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE CONFERENCE CHOOSES SITE IN SOUTHERN AUTO-MANUFACTURING HUB***

GREENVILLE, SC (February 22, 2012) – IEEE, the world’s leading technical professional association, has chosen Greenville, S.C., as the site for its first technology conference dedicated to advancing electronic vehicles and the power grid infrastructure to create more energy-efficient transportation systems. Greenville was chosen to host the IEEE International Electric Vehicle Conference (IEVC) on March 4-8, 2012, at its TD Convention Center in recognition of South Carolina’s nationally recognized leadership in automotive manufacturing, as evidenced by its network of approximately 250 automotive-related companies and suppliers who represent a major sector of the state’s economy that has been crucial in fueling its economic development.

“From original equipment manufacturers to both Tier One and Tier Two automotive suppliers providing systems, sub-systems, components and materials, South Carolina’s automotive industry is vast and deep,” said IEVC conference chair Dr. Joachim Taiber, research professor at Clemson University International Center for Automotive Research (CU-ICAR), Department of Automotive Engineering. “It was a natural fit to hold a conference that is completely focused on advancing electric vehicle technology in the heart of one of its manufacturing hubs.”

The inaugural IEEE International Electric Vehicle Conference (IEVC) will provide a unique interdisciplinary forum for engineers, researchers, government officials and professionals from fields as diverse as electric utilities, semiconductors, battery technology, automotive engineering, computers and urban planning to come together to discuss, debate and demonstrate noteworthy developments critical to making progress in this emerging area.

Additionally, the South Carolina locale allows for special events to be integrated into the conference’s program, such as a tour of Clemson University’s International Center for Automotive Research (CU-ICAR) facility; a Drive-Along Event at the South Carolina Technology & Aviation Center (SCTAC); and tours of the KEMET capacitor laboratory and manufacturing plant, as well as the ProTerra alternative energy vehicle manufacturing facility.

South Carolina’s automotive industry dates back to the early 1900s, when Milliken & Company made fabric seats and roofs for Henry Ford’s gasoline-powered cars. This tradition shifted into the present when BMW decided to locate its first full manufacturing plant outside of Germany (and its only North American assembly plant) in South Carolina in 1992. South Carolina helped BMW achieve the fastest start-up in the automobile manufacturing industry at the time, 23 months from groundbreaking to the

first car rolling off the assembly line in 1994.

South Carolina is recognized as a leader in automotive manufacturing in the United States, ranked #3 in automotive manufacturing strength by *Business Facilities* magazine in July/August 2010.

**Registration information**

For more information about IEVC 2012 or to register, visit [electricvehicle.ieee.org](http://electricvehicle.ieee.org).

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