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GM Thermoplastic Tonneau Cover from Penda Corporation Wins SPE Gold Medal

Portage, Wis...The new lightweight thermoplastic tonneau cover now available through General Motors dealerships received the Gold Medal at the 2007 Society of Plastics Engineers Thermoforming Conference in Cincinnati. The advanced tonneau cover, developed and manufactured for GM by Penda Corporation, combines an advanced construction technology and a variety of premium features as well as an exclusive color-matched finish that is integral to the plastic material.

The Society of Plastic Engineers is a network of more than 20,000 leading engineers, scientists and plastics professionals throughout the world. The objective of SPE is to promote the scientific and engineering knowledge relating to plastics.

The thermoforming competition was open to all thermoformed components, with judging based on creativity, originality, design complexity, surface finish, secondary operations, technical difficulty and innovation. SPE presented awards to three products in each category within the thermoforming division. The GM tonneau cover from Penda received the Gold Medal in the Heavy Gauge, Vacuum Form Division of the program's Parts Competition.

"We are especially pleased to be recognized by the top professionals in the plastics industry, who have an extensive understanding and appreciation of the challenges unique to a product of this type and size," said Ulf Buerger, president and chief executive officer, Penda Corporation. "The GM tonneau cover is truly a game-changing product that will help consumers enhance the versatility, value and appearance of their vehicles."

In a separate competition held during the conference, the Penda-manufactured tonneau cover fell one vote short of the SPE People's Choice Award. Penda also was honored during the SPE Automotive Innovation Awards Banquet.

The GM tonneau cover is the first original equipment thermoformed tonneau cover for light trucks. The tonneau cover features an uncommon array of innovative design and construction elements, including a molded paintless material that precisely matches the truck color while eliminating the cracking/chipping issues associated with conventional finishes and fiberglass products, and custom exterior styling lines that complement and enhance the appearance of the vehicle. In addition, the cover's molded color technology enables the truck owner to buff out scratches and other periodic damage without the need to paint the repaired area.

The GM tonneau cover is designed to maximize the versatility of the truck bed through fast, easy installation and removal. Because the unit weighs 30 to 50 percent less than a fiberglass tonneau cover, the truck owner can lift, remove and store the unit in a matter of seconds.

About Penda Corporation

Penda Corporation, Portage, Wis., a leading manufacturer of precision-engineered thermoplastic components and technologies for the transportation industry and other markets. Penda is the premier supplier of original equipment and aftermarket light-truck bedliners, thermoplastic tonneau covers and popular vehicle accessories. Additional company and product information is available online at www.penda.com

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