

North American International Powertrain Conference

A Note from Bob Lee: Chairperson, NAIPC Executive Leadership Team

I invite you to join me in Chicago for this year's North American International Powertrain Conference (NAIPC) on September 19-21.

Themed this year as "Economically Viable Powertrains to Meet the North American 2025 Requirements," pertinent issues will be addressed by conference speakers through provocative presentations on where the future pathways for energy and transportation systems are headed as we approach the 2025 deadline. Conference participants will be encouraged to tackle these pathways head-on through a series of discussions and debate panels that will explore implications –positive and negative –for both the short and long term.

As the premier annual event for executive-level leaders in the powertrain arena, this year's NAIPC will feature an exciting line-up of speakers. In fact, each presenter has been carefully chosen in order to provide new and interesting vantage points for attendees. Governed by Chatham House Rules, the conference is an electrifying forum that encourages candid dialogue and stimulating discussions.

The conference will open on Wednesday evening with a compelling keynote presentation from Ray Kurzweil, a preeminent technology futurist and multiple award-winning inventor. As one of the leading inventors of our time, Ray Kurzweil has been described as "the restless genius" by the *Wall Street Journal* and the "rightful heir to Thomas Edison" by *Inc. Magazine*. His inventions include the first CCD flat-bed scanner, the first omni-font optical character recognition, the first print-to-speech reading machine for the blind, the first text-to-speech synthesizer, the first music synthesizer capable of recreating the grand piano and other orchestral instruments, and the first commercially marketed large-vocabulary speech recognition system. Ray's latest book, *The Singularity is Near*, is a *New York Times* best seller. This presentation will undoubtedly encourage attendees to open their minds and think creatively from the very start of the conference.

Keeping the momentum going from day one, on day two and three of the conference, attendees will hear thought-provoking discussions on alternative fuels, the future of vehicle electrification, and both conventional and new conventional powertrains. Each area will be broken down into micro-discussions from the perspective of the technology, economics, consumer and producer. This wide range of perspectives will offer attendees the ability to look beyond current issues and begin to realize future solutions.

This year's event promises to be a stimulating experience for all who are in attendance. I encourage you to take full advantage of the unique opportunities the NAIPC offers—information exchange, networking opportunities, and, most importantly, the sharing of knowledge and solutions.

I look forward to seeing you in Chicago in September.

Regards,

Bob Lee

VP and Head Engine Powertrain and Electrified Propulsion Systems Engineering
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