



## High Performance Engineering Conference



### Green High Performance and Other Innovative Solutions From The Advanced Engineering Sector

Long Beach, California  
16 April 2009

## Panellist Biographies

### Christopher J. Kersting, CAE - President and CEO



Christopher J. Kersting heads up the Specialty Equipment Market Association, providing hands-on guidance and leadership to the association's 80-plus staff members in Diamond Bar, California, as well as in Washington, D.C., and other parts of the world.

Since assuming the role of president and CEO five years ago, Kersting has been committed to providing the association's 7,094 members with relevant benefits and services to help their businesses grow and prosper. He remains focused on providing valuable educational programs, identifying international growth opportunities, addressing complex vehicle technology and playing an active role in industry and business legislative issues. During his tenure, the SEMA Webinar program debuted and has allowed members throughout the world to take part in the online program and enhance their professional and business skills. The SEMA Political Action Committee (PAC) was also formed during Kersting's leadership, and a new executive level position was created for the sole purpose of addressing complex vehicle technologies.

Having held a number of other positions at SEMA prior to being named to his current role, Kersting possesses a strong knowledge and deep understanding of what SEMA members need and want. Just before assuming the president and CEO role, Kersting worked as executive vice president and as vice president of legislative and technical affairs for SEMA. Even prior to joining SEMA as a full-time staff member, Kersting assisted SEMA and its members with legal matters, and he served as general counsel for the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA), the Performance Warehouse Association (PWA) and the Auto International Association (AIA).

Kersting was honored as Person of the Year by the AIA in 1995, and he was named to the board of directors of the Automotive Hall of Fame in 2002.

Kersting is a certified association executive (CAE), and holds a law degree from Washington College of Law, American University in Washington, D.C. He also has a bachelor's degree in business from the University of Colorado.

Kersting resides in Sierra Madre, California, with his wife Lisa and their daughters, Kate and Sarah.