

Press release

17 October 2000

Union Minière sells its entire shareholding in Rubber Cultuur Maatschappij Amsterdam (RCMA)

Union Minière has sold all of its shares in Rubber Cultuur Maatschappij Amsterdam to Redwood Trust, Orange Fund and Stichting RCMA, all of them being RCMA shareholders.

RCMA is a quoted company on the Amsterdam exchange and is active in rubber and other soft commodities.

After the sale Union Minière will no longer be a RCMA shareholder, although Thomas Leysen, Chief Executive Officer of UM, will remain as a member of RCMA's supervisory board.

For more information:

Union Minière:

Press: Mrs. Moniek DELVOU - Phone +32 2 227 70 63 * +32 75 26 64 95 - moniek.delvou@um.be

Investor Relations: Mrs. Isabelle MICHOTTE - Phone +32 2 227 71 47 - isabelle.michotte@um.be

n.v. Union Minière s.a

Broekstraat 31 Rue du Marais • B-1000 Brussels, Belgium
Phone +32 2 227 70 63 • Fax +32 2 227 79 03 • Telex 34004 umb
VAT BE 401 574 852 • Bank 210-0053806-23 • TRB 85382
Internet www.unionminiere.com • e-mail info@um.be

PROFILE

Union Minière (UM) is an international metals and materials group, which strives to obtain leadership positions in selected markets. Its activities are centred on 3 business groups: Advanced Materials, Copper & Precious Metals and Zinc. To ensure a rapid response to the market, each business group is divided into several business units and business lines.

The UM Group has industrial operations in Europe, North America, Asia and Africa and serves a global customer base through an international sales network with offices in more than 25 countries.

The underlying principles of UM's strategy across the various business groups are a commitment to technological innovation, operational excellence, recycling and environmental responsibility.

The Group generated a turnover of EUR 3.2 billion in 1999. UM currently employs some 8,000 people.

*