

Press release

29 March 2002

The Institut des Reviseurs d'Entreprises / Instituut der Bedrijfsrevisoren awards the prize for the best environment report 2000 to Umicore

Umicore's 2000 Environment & Safety report, "On the road to Sustainable development", was awarded first prize by the "Instituut der Bedrijfsrevisoren". It will now seek recognition at a comparable review on European level.

In the reward speech the jury especially appreciated the transparency of the reporting, the balanced environmental management system and the commitment to reach ambitious environmental targets by 2005.

Umicore underlined that the report reflects the strategic decision of the company to move toward sustainable development, in line with its recently changed name and mission statement.

Besides a detailed reporting and trend analysis of environmental performance the report includes among others the following sections :

- an overview reporting on the Group' Occupational Safety Performance;
- an overview of how Umicore manages the historical soil, groundwater contamination and waste disposal ponds.

The report also includes 8 explicit environmental and safety Group objectives to be reached in 2005 along with clear and measurable targets : sustainable use of materials, water and energy, emission reductions, climate change objectives, external communication and management of complaints.

All above items reflect Umicore's intention to learn from the past and to prevent the next generation from unnecessary impact, a basic step towards Sustainable Business.

All facts and figures on Environmental performance have been examined and validated by Lloyds, an external auditor, to ensure transparency and quality of the report.

It is Umicore's firm intention to extend its report to a fully integrated Sustainability report.

For more information:

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PROFILE

Umicore is an international metals and materials group. Its activities are centred on four business areas : Advanced Materials, Copper, Precious Metals and Zinc. Each business area is divided into market-focused business units.

Umicore focuses on application areas where it knows its expertise in materials science and metallurgy can make a real difference, be it in products that are essential to everyday life or those at the cutting edge of exciting, new technological developments. Umicore's overriding goal of sustainable value creation is based on this ambition to develop, produce and recycle metals in a way that fulfils its mission : materials for a better life.

The Umicore Group has industrial operations on all continents and serves a global customer base; it generated a turnover of EUR 3.5 billion in 2001 and currently employs some 9,000 people.

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