

## Press release

25.02.02

### **Umicore signs Memorandum of Understanding and Distribution Contract with Malaysian partners in Kuala Lumpur during the Belgian economic Mission to Malaysia.**

In the presence of HRH, Prince Philippe of Belgium and HE Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, the UMICORE Group, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and a Distribution Contract with Malaysian companies on February 25<sup>th</sup> 2002 in Kuala Lumpur .

The Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the Malaysian Smelting Corporation (MSC), one of the world's biggest tin smelters. MSC is a publicly listed company at the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange and operates a 25,000 tonnes per year tin smelter in Penang (Malaysia). Today, MSC is on the verge of an important industrial and commercial development, thanks to its very recent acquisition of the Koba Tin facilities in Indonesia, which will increase its capacity by 12.000 MT to reach 38.000 MT of tin metal.

The MoU between MSC (represented by Dato' Ajib, Executive Director of MSC) and the UMICORE Group (represented by Alain De Muyter and Bruno Deliens) concerns the cooperation between both companies in two fields: the first one is commercial and aims at the utilisation by MSC of the world-wide distribution network of UMICORE and also of the raw material supply opportunities offered by its subsidiary SOGEM, which operates third party activities. The second is industrial and is focused more particularly on recycling of metal bearing products and on downstream product development, where both groups have particular expertise.

SOGEM, has remained active in sourcing and trading of tin concentrates from Africa and South America. In order to transform these concentrates into metal, SOGEM has since then made extensive use of the capacities of Malaysian Smelting Corporation.

A Distribution Contract has also been signed between SOGEM (represented by Alain De Muyter and Bruno Deliens), and REDRING SOLDER (represented by Mr K.F. Wong, Chairman and Managing Director), one of Malaysia's largest solder producers since 1980, 40 % owned by MSC. REDRING SOLDER has chosen UMICORE and its international commercial network to market its products in Western Europe and South Africa.

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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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