

Press release

17 December 2003

Umicore wins sustainable development prize

Umicore is gratified to have received the Belgian Environmental Prize 2003 – 2004 under the category 'international partnership for sustainable development'. The award was specifically for the rehabilitation project at Umicore's copper operations in Bulgaria (Umicore Med) – acquired in 1997. The prize was presented to Umicore CEO Thomas Leysen and Tom Beamish, Director of Umicore's Bulgarian operations, by Ms. Freya Van den Bossche, the Belgian federal minister for the Environment on 16 December at a ceremony organised by the Belgian Employers' Federation in Brussels.

Following Umicore's acquisition of the copper smelter in Pirdop, Bulgaria in 1997, the company agreed to manage and implement an environmental rehabilitation programme at the site on behalf of the Bulgarian Government. The remediation measures were financed by the World Bank. The implementation of the project was successfully completed in 2003 and has controlled or eliminated the historical environmental damage inflicted between 1957 – 1997.

The jury was composed of experts from academic and scientific institutions and representatives of national and regional government in Belgium. It chose the Umicore Med project as the best example of important environmental rehabilitation, with an important social component, completed through co-operation between international partners – in this case the Bulgarian Government, a private company and the World Bank.

Umicore views this award as recognition for all those who have contributed to the successful environmental rehabilitation of Umicore's Bulgarian operations and to the a positive relationship with the local communities.

For more information:

n.v. Umicore s.a.:

Investor Relations : Mrs Isabelle MICHOTTE - Tel. +32 2 227 71 47 – isabelle.michotte@umicore.com

Press: Mr Eddy CORNELIS - Tel. +32 2 227 70 64 - +32 475 84 00 94 – eddy.cornelis@umicore.com

n.v. Umicore s.a.
Corporate Communication

Broekstraat 31 Rue du Marais
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium
www.umicore.com

Phone +32 2 227 70 67
Fax +32 2 227 79 03
e-mail info@umicore.com

BTW BE401 574 852
Bank 210-0053806-23 - TRB 85382
Registered Office: Broekstraat 31 Rue du Marais, B-1000 Brussels

PROFILE

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

Umicore focuses on application areas where it knows its expertise in materials science, chemistry 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 3.2 billion in 2002 and currently employs some 12,500 people.
