

Press release

04 April 2005

Cumerio prospectus available

In line with the timetable for the proposed demerger of its copper activities, Umicore today published the Cumerio demerger prospectus. The electronic versions are now available on www.umicore.com. Hard copies will be available from tomorrow, 5 April, 2005.

Guidance for Cumerio's 2005 earnings has been provided within the prospectus. Barring any significant changes in market conditions and based on an average USD/EUR market rate of 1.30 and the accounting norms used to prepare Cumerio's pro forma consolidated opening balance sheet as at 1 January 2005, Cumerio's management anticipates for 2005 a recurring EBIT in the range of EUR 42 to 45 million. Accordingly, Cumerio's recurring net result is expected to range between EUR 27 and 30 million.

For more information:

For Cumerio:

Mr Michel MOSER - Tel. +32 2 227 71 55 – michel.moser@umicore.com

Mr Frank VANDENBORRE - Tel +32 2 227 7108 – frank.vandenborre@umicore.com

For Umicore:

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

Mr Tim WEEKES - Tel. +32 2 227 73 98 – tim.weekes@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 64
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

UMICORE 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 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, 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 7.1 billion in 2004 and currently employs some 10,000 people.

CUMERIO PROFILE

CUMERIO is set to be one of Europe's leading independent copper companies. Its operations are involved in copper smelting, refining and recycling. Cumerio also transforms copper into products such as wirerod, specialty rod, wire, cakes and billets for a wide range of end-user industries. Cumerio has a total copper products capacity in excess of 600,000 tonnes per year.

Cumerio is headquartered in Brussels and has industrial operations in Belgium, Bulgaria and Italy. Cumerio currently employs some 1560 people and generated a turnover of € 1.4 billion in 2004.