

Press release

24 February 2006

UMICORE APPOINTS NEW CFO

Umicore is pleased to announce that Martine Verluyten will join the company on 1 June as Chief Financial Officer.

Martine Verluyten is currently CFO of Mobistar, a listed Belgian mobile phone operator. Martine Verluyten joined Mobistar in 2000. Previously, she held international controlling positions at Raychem, both in Europe and the United States.

Martine Verluyten is taking over as CFO of Umicore from Marc Grynberg. He will succeed Martin Hess as Executive Vice President in charge of Umicore's Automotive Catalyst division. Martin Hess in turn will take over as Executive Vice President for the Zinc Specialties business and will also oversee Umicore's Corporate Development effort.

Thomas Leysen, CEO of Umicore commented: "I am pleased that with these changes we can entrust two highly successful Umicore executives with a new assignment. Both Marc Grynberg and Martin Hess have been extremely effective in their current job over the last 6 years, and are now looking forward to a new career challenge. We were very fortunate to be able to attract Martine Verluyten as our new CFO. Martine has been a very respected CFO of Mobistar, one of Belgium's most successful publicly listed companies in recent years. She will also bring to Umicore her previous experience within an international high tech manufacturing company".

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PROFILE

Umicore is a materials technology group. Its activities are centered on four business areas: Advanced Materials, Precious Metals Products and Catalysts, Precious Metals Services and Zinc Specialties. 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 new technological developments. Umicore's overriding goal of sustainable value creation is based on this ambition to develop, produce and recycle materials 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 6.6 billion in 2005 and currently employs some 14,000 people.