

Press release

18 January 2006

Grâce-Hollogne rehabilitation can now move to final phase

On 17 January 2006, Umicore received a report from the Wallonian Public Service Science Institute (ISSeP) providing comments on the rehabilitation plan for its old industrial site at Grâce-Hollogne, near Liège, Belgium. This site was operated by one of Umicore's predecessor companies and has been closed for many years.

Umicore will now work with the authorities and other parties to press ahead with the remediation work required.

This report in no way changes Umicore's view on the adequacy of its existing environmental provisions.

Umicore and the local authorities agree that the site does not pose any health hazard, nor has it done so in the past.

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PROFILE

Umicore is a specialty materials 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 5.7 billion in 2004 and currently employs some 13,000 people.