

Press-release

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## Umicore launches Umicore Scientific Award

Materials technology group Umicore has awarded its first *Umicore Scientific Award* to young French researcher Charles Delacourt for his work in the field of the electronic behaviour of lithium batteries which will help to improve the prospects of using this type of rechargeable battery in environmentally-friendly high-power hybrid vehicles.

By turning this into an annual event, Umicore aims to highlight the crucial role fundamental academic research has to play in industry and society as a whole: the scientific quest for intelligent energy-efficient solutions to store and generate power can help turn our society into a sustainable one.

Umicore invests more than 5% of its revenues in R&D and also fosters close ties with dozens of research institutions and universities around the world. A great deal of fundamental scientific research finds its way into its technologies.

Charles Delacourt's (Université de Picardie, Amiens, France) entry was one of 17 from all over Europe, including Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, France and Germany.

The prize, along with a cheque of € 10,000 was awarded to the winner in Brussels on 4 December.

The "*Umicore Scientific Award*" is granted to a PhD graduate that, through his/her research, has significantly contributed to science in those fields that are crucial for the future growth of both Umicore's business and the prospect of a sustainable society (fine particle technology/applications; sustainable technology for metal-containing compounds; sustainable energy related topics; catalysis and finally, economic or societal issues linked to metal-containing compounds).

Three additional "*Umicore Awards*" (each for an amount of €2,500) were also granted to masters graduates from the University of Ghent (Jonas Feys, Henk Huisseune) and the Faculté Universitaire des Sciences Agronomiques de Gembloux (Julie Leclercq) that have made significant contributions in these fields.

Umicore wishes to thank its partners (both Belgian funds for scientific research, FWO and FNRS), for selecting the laureates and ensuring the scientific excellence of the awards.

**n.v. Umicore s.a.**  
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## Umicore profile

Umicore is a materials technology group. Its activities are centred 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 €8.2 billion (€1.7 billion excluding metal) in 2006 and currently employs some 14,000 people.