



umicore

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OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL
CORPORATE FINANCE

Washington, DC 20549-0302
USA

For the attention of Mr Paul M. Dudek



Brussels, October 25, 2004
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Dear Sir,

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FINANCIAL

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Umicore
Rule 12g3-2(b) Exemption No. 82-3876

Please find enclosed herewith, pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, copy of the following document :

- the press release issued on October 15, 2004 entitled: "Umicore signs agreement with OXONICA"
- the press release issued on October 15, 2004 entitled: "Umicore extends zinc hedging for 2005".

Yours sincerely,

Umicore

J. Fiérain
Manager
Legal Corporate Dpt.

A. Godefroid
Corporate Vice President Legal &
Environmental Affairs

Encl.

Press release

15 October 2004

Umicore signs agreement with OXONICA

Umicore has signed an agreement with UK-based Oxonica Limited to produce nanomaterials for the development of a new skincare product ingredient.

Oxonica is a nanomaterials company which commercializes both its own research initiatives and also intellectual property rights researched at the University of Oxford.

Oxonica has recently developed OPTISOL™ UV Absorber, a photostable product based on titanium dioxide for enhanced UVA protection in skincare products. Umicore has used its expertise in nanomaterial production to develop nano-sized titanium dioxide powder for this application. Umicore's expertise will enable the manufacture of commercial volumes of the product which will be commercialized by Oxonica. It is anticipated that the first sunscreen products containing OPTISOL™ UV Absorber will be commercially available within 18 months.

The development of the project within Umicore is being carried out within the company's Venture Unit.

For more information:

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

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Corporate Communication

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Press release

15 October 2004

Umicore extends zinc hedging for 2005

Umicore has taken advantage of the recent rally in zinc prices to extend its coverage of its zinc price exposure for 2005. This is supplementary to earlier operations announced this year.

In total, Umicore has now fixed about three quarters of its zinc price exposure for 2005 at an average forward price of \$ 1,156 per tonne.

The projected US dollar earnings resulting from the zinc price coverage operations for 2005 have also been hedged, thereby covering a part of the Umicore Group's US dollar exposure. Consequently about two thirds of Umicore's US dollar exposure for 2005 is now covered at an average USD / EUR exchange rate of 1.13.

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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 4.7 billion in 2003 and currently employs some 11,500 people.

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