

Press-release

16 August 2007

## Umicore to invest more than €40 million in South America

Umicore has decided to invest more than €40 million in the construction of a new industrial facility in Americana, Brazil. The facility will house activities that are currently located at the company's site in Guarulhos<sup>1</sup> and will offer these activities improved possibilities for further growth in the coming years.

The Guarulhos site is more than 40 years old and no longer offers the possibility to expand the existing businesses or to add new activities. Also, over the years, the site has gradually been surrounded by residential areas and Umicore believes that it is more suitable for the activities to be situated in a dedicated industrial site.

The Guarulhos operations will be moved to the site of Umicore's Automotive Catalyst operations in Americana, some 150 km to the north. New facilities will be built at the site incorporating state-of-the-art production and environmental technologies. The installations will also have ample space into which to grow in the future. The workforce in Guarulhos has been offered the possibility of moving to the new facilities and those that choose to make the move will be provided with financial and other assistance. The Guarulhos site will be cleaned of any historical pollution and sold.

The total investment amount is expected to be somewhat more than €40 million. It is anticipated that the move will be completed by July 2009.

This investment in Brazil follows a similar decision to move the Catalyst Technologies activities in Buenos Aires (Argentina) to a new plant outside the city by early 2008. The new facility will involve an investment of some €4 million.

Umicore's South American operations have been growing strongly in recent years. These investments underscore the company's commitment to developing a platform for the further growth of its activities in the region.

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<sup>1</sup> These are Technical Materials, Jewellery and Electroplating, Catalysts Technologies, Precious Metals Refining and Cobalt and Specialty Materials activities

## For more information

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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 €8.8 billion (€1.9 billion excluding metal) in 2006 and currently employs some 17,000 people.