

UMICORE ENTERS JEWELLERY MATERIALS BUSINESS IN NORTH AMERICA

Umicore has reached an agreement to acquire Imperial Smelting & Refining Co. of Canada Ltd., located in Toronto, Canada. Imperial is the leading supplier of precious metal products and recycling services for the jewellery industry in Canada, and also supplies the US market.

Imperial is a family business, which was founded in 1914, and that employs approximately 70 people. In 2006 it generated revenues equivalent to € 5.8 million, excluding metal value. Imperial will continue to trade under the same name and will be integrated in Umicore's Jewellery and Electroplating business unit. This business unit has its headquarters in Europe with operations in Germany, the Netherlands and Austria. It is also active in Asia with a plant in Thailand. This acquisition allows Umicore to expand its jewellery materials business into North America

"The acquisition of Imperial will provide our group with a market entry into the North American jewellery industry. In addition to the local production platform we will be able to supply this market with products and services from our Pforzheim plant", commented Dr. Jörg Beuers, Head of the Jewellery and Electroplating business unit, and CEO and Chairman of Allgemeine (Allgemeine Gold- und Silberscheideanstalt AG is 90.8% owned by Umicore and is at the heart of its Jewellery and Electroplating business unit).

For more information

Investor Relations:

Mr. Tim WEEKES – +32 2 227 73 98 – tim.weekes@umicore.com

Mr. Geoffroy RASKIN – +32 2 227 71 47 – geoffroy.raskin@umicore.com

Media:

Mr. Bart CROLS – +32 2 227 71 29 – +32 476 98 01 21 – bart.crols@umicore.com

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.