

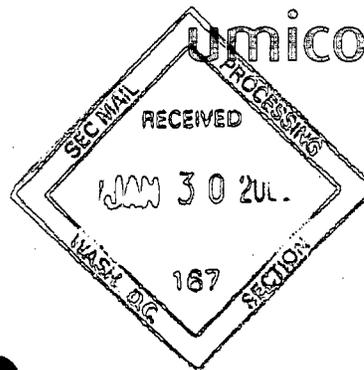


Umicore

Office of International Corporate Finance
U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
450 Fifth Street, NW

Washington, DC 20549-0302
USA

For the attention of Mr Paul M. Dudek



DAJ/OS 06/2002

Brussels, January 23, 2002

Dear Sir,

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

SUPPL

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

- the press release issued on January 18, 2002 entitled "Umicore progresses with Research Partnerships in the substrate area – The European space agency grants an EUR 2.84 million research contract to Umicore";
- the press release issued on January 21, 2002 entitled "Umicore and Silicon Genesis form a partnership to manufacture thick SOI wafers".

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THOMSON
FINANCIAL

Yours sincerely,

UMICORE

J. Fiérain
Manager Corporate Administration

A. Godefroid
Corporate Vice President Legal &
Environmental Affairs

Encl.

Press release

January 18, 2001

Umicore progresses with Research Partnerships in the substrates area

The European space agency grants an EUR 2.84 million research contract to Umicore

A new co-funded research project of ESA and Umicore worth EUR 2.84 million will focus on the development of thinner robust germanium substrates. It will combine the optimisation of existing processes with radical new technologies to increase the strength of these highly sophisticated substrates, used in solar cells.

In line with global trends towards faster information transfer, the need for efficient communication tools has increased significantly and will further develop in the coming years. This is reflected in the growth of cellular phones, computers and internet connections. Many of the related communication systems and infrastructure use optical fiber for data transmissions. However, particularly for the long distance and for areas where optical fibers are not available, satellite systems are the number one choice for data transfer. To maximise the capacity of a satellite and at the same time minimise the launching costs, the power systems have to be very efficient. The new generation of powerful satellites is equipped with solar cells based on gallium arsenide grown on germanium substrates with efficiencies up to 25%.

ESA and Umicore are working together to increase the efficiency of the solar cells and at the same time to reduce the weight. To have a good conversion of light in electricity only a few tens of microns thickness is sufficient to have maximum benefit for solar light conversion. Until now thickness reduction has been limited due to mechanical strength requirements. Based on recent technological improvements the production of thinner solar cells with acceptable mechanical strength became feasible.

Umicore is the world leader in the production of germanium substrates for solar cells. This product has been developed for the space applications but has promising characteristics for the terrestrial markets. The 'Nuna' solar vehicle which won the Australian car race recently demonstrated this. It was equipped with high efficiency solar cells based on germanium technology. Umicore produced the substrates for the solar cells of the "Nuna".

n.v. Umicore s.a.
Corporate Communication

Broekstraat 31 Rue du Marais
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium
www.umicore.com

Phone +32 2 227 70 63
Fax +32 2 227 79 03
e-mail info@umicore.com

BTW BE401 574 852
Bank 210-0053806-23 - TRB 85382
Registered Office: Broekstraat 31 Rue du Marais, B-1000 Brussels

Results of collaborative effort between Umicore and IMEC on sustainability of technologies used in space solar cell manufacturing.

The solar cell production technology currently used by Umicore's customers makes use of toxic products such as arsine. This could become a threat to future sustainability of this application. Therefore Umicore initiated a research programme with the aim of replacing the highly toxic reagents by products with much lower risk factors. This development work was performed within the framework of an IMEC-Umicore research programme and supported by the Flemish Government through IWT-funding. The first results of this work are very encouraging : the efficiency of the solar cells produced using the low risk reagents exhibits light-to-electricity conversion efficiencies of 24.5%, comparing very favourably even with the highest ever reported efficiency of 24.3 % for this type of solar cells. It is Umicore's firm intention to continue proactively supporting technologies crucial for applications in which its products are used.

For more information:

n.v. Umicore s.a.:

*Press: Mrs Moniek DELVOU - Tel. +32 2 227 70 63 * +32 475 26 64 95 – moniek.delvou@umicore.com*

Investor Relations: Mrs Isabelle MICHOTTE - Tel. +32 2 227 71 47 – isabelle.michotte@umicore.com

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PROFILE

Umicore is the new name Union Minière adopted on 3 September 2001.

Umicore is an international metals and materials group, which strives to obtain leadership positions in selected markets. Its activities are centred on 3 main business groups: Copper & Precious Metals, Zinc and Advanced Materials. To ensure a rapid response to market openings, each business group is divided into several business units.

The Umicore Group has industrial operations on all continents and serves a global customer base through an international sales network with offices in more than 25 countries.

The underlying principles of Umicore's strategy across the various business groups are a commitment to technological innovation, operational excellence, recycling and environmental responsibility.

The Group generated a turnover of EUR 3.8 billion in 2000. Umicore currently employs some 8,200 people.

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Press release

21 January 2002

Umicore and Silicon Genesis form a partnership to manufacture thick SOI wafers

Brussels, Belgium, January 21, 2002 – The Advanced Materials business group of Umicore, a Belgian based metals and materials supplier and Silicon Genesis Corporation (SiGen) based in Campbell, California, USA, a developer of innovative Silicon-On-Insulator (SOI) wafer technologies are collaborating in the manufacturing of thick SOI wafers. The SOI wafers offered by Umicore and SiGen consist of a customer specific oxide layer in between a bottom and top silicon wafer and are used for electronic, photonic and micro-electro-mechanical-systems (MEMS) applications. The market for thick-SOI wafers reached EUR 120 million in 2001 and is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of around 40% over the next 4 years. The partnership will combine the SiGen capabilities for wafer bonding and oxidation with the Umicore expertise in precision grinding and polishing for the production of thick SOI wafers with diameters of 100, 125 and 150 mm. Although initially the operation will focus on silicon-based SOI wafers with an installed capacity of 50,000 wafers per year, Umicore's extensive experience in germanium and III-V compound semiconductor wafers as well as other advanced materials will provide a base for the development of advanced heterostructure materials. The thick SOI wafers are being marketed and sold by both partners.

Silicon Genesis

Silicon Genesis Corporation is an advanced materials company that supplies silicon-on-insulator (SOI) and other laminated structure wafers to the microelectronics and photonics industry through internal manufacturing and process licensing. The company promotes its layer-transfer technology by continued development of its advanced process and equipment technologies as well as through strategic alliances. Silicon Genesis Corporation's web site is <http://www.sigen.com>.

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