

## Umicore opens new facility for the production of fuel cell catalysts



Umicore inaugurated today its new production facility for fuel cell catalysts in SongDo Incheon City (Seoul area), Korea, close to Umicore's technology development center for catalysts. The facility will support the growth of Hyundai Motors Group as well as other automotive customers.

It is expected to ramp up production in 2020 and allows for further expansion beyond 2020. With this production expansion in Korea and the existing production capacity in Hanau, Germany, Umicore is well placed to serve the growing demand for fuel cell catalysts from its automotive customers globally.

The fuel cell catalysts market is gaining momentum, supported by a combination of intensifying clean mobility legislation and growing global awareness of the challenges of climate change. Fuel cells are an environmentally friendly alternative to combustion engines in drivetrain applications. They combine the environmental advantages of electric vehicles and the driving range and refueling time of today's internal combustion engines.

Umicore has a competitive product portfolio with a strong R&D pipeline and has entered into close collaboration agreements with Hyundai Motors Group and other leading car OEMs for existing car platforms as well as future development programs.

*Marc Grynberg, CEO, commented: "I am very proud to open this new facility which illustrates Umicore's commitment and ability to support the transition to cleaner mobility. I am convinced that fuel cells will grow in importance in the drive train mix for both passenger cars and heavy duty applications. Our offering of*



*innovative solutions for all future drivetrain technologies, combined with our unique ability to close the materials loop will be key ingredients for success.”*

#### **Notes to the editor:**

##### About Umicore's fuel cell activities

As a leading supplier of automotive and homogeneous chemical catalysts, Umicore has developed fuel cell catalysts for a broad range of Polymer Electrolyte Membrane (PEM) fuel cell technologies since the end of 1980's. Its experience in those areas has led to the development of superior fuel cell catalysts. Its catalysts are designed for superior performance and durability requirements in fuel cell vehicles, in PEM Electrolysis and other fuel cell based applications.

##### About fuel cell drivetrains

The application of platinum as a catalyst for generating electric power through conversion of hydrogen with oxygen is more than 100 years old. In the move to cleaner mobility, the application has gained importance as fuel cell drivetrains combine the environmental advantages of battery drivetrains with the driving range and refueling time of internal combustion engines.

These advantages make the fuel-cell powered automotive attractive in long-distance or energy-demanding haulage applications, in particular for trucks, but it is no substitute for batteries. As a complementary technology, fuel cells are clearly part of the engine mix, providing one of the various technologies required to move towards clean and sustainable mobility.

## About Umicore

Umicore is a global materials technology and recycling group. It focuses on application areas where its expertise in materials science, chemistry and metallurgy makes a real difference. Its activities are organised in three business groups: Catalysis, Energy & Surface Technologies and Recycling. Each business group is divided into market-focused business units offering materials and solutions that are at the cutting edge of new technological developments and essential to everyday life.

Umicore generates the majority of its revenues and dedicates most of its R&D efforts to clean mobility materials and recycling. Umicore's overriding goal of sustainable value creation is based on an ambition to develop, produce and recycle materials in a way that fulfils its mission: materials for a better life.

Umicore's industrial and commercial operations as well as R&D activities are located across the world to best serve its global customer base. The Group generated revenues (excluding metal) of € 1.6 billion (turnover of € 7.6 billion) in the first half of 2019 and currently employs 10,700 people.

## For more information

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