

Press release
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Regulated information

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Umicore to build new production line for automotive catalysts in China

Umicore will increase its production capacity for automotive catalysts in Suzhou, China. The investment will support multiple catalytic systems and further the site's ability to serve heavy duty diesel platforms based on secured new awards. The investment also entails the supporting infrastructure for further expansion and is due to be commissioned mid 2012.

Umicore is a global leader in automotive catalysts and has a leading position in the Chinese market. The company serves the Chinese market with a broad spectrum of catalyst technologies for both light duty and heavy duty vehicles. Umicore first established an automotive catalyst production plant in China in 2005 and has since continuously increased its production capacity and capabilities, the most recent expansion having been commissioned in 2010. The continuous expansion in Suzhou goes hand-in-hand with the car market developments in China and the intensification of emission legislation.

The construction of the new production line runs in parallel with the technology development centre currently being built in Suzhou which is also due to be commissioned mid 2012. This centre will serve the system development and emission testing needs of the Chinese market for light duty and heavy duty vehicle drivetrains, and for multiple engine types, including hybrid electric vehicles.

Arjang Roshan, Umicore's Senior Vice-President for Automotive Catalysts in the Asia Pacific region, commented: "The new investment demonstrates our commitment to maintain our position as a leader in the Chinese autocatalysts market. The combination of increased production capacity, further expansion possibilities and test and development facilities, will place Umicore in an ideal position to further serve the domestic car producers and global players in China."

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Umicore profile

Umicore is a global materials technology group. It focuses on application areas where its expertise in materials science, chemistry and metallurgy makes a real difference. Its activities are centred on four business areas: Catalysis, Energy Materials, Performance Materials and Recycling. Each business area 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 technologies, such as emission control catalysts, materials for rechargeable batteries and photovoltaics, fuel cells, 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.

The Umicore Group has industrial operations on all continents and serves a global customer base; it generated a turnover of € 9.7 billion (€ 2.0 billion excluding metal) in 2010 and currently employs some 14,400 people.