

PRESS RELEASE

PRYSMIAN GROUP AND UMICORE COMMITTED TO IMPROVING ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE THROUGHOUT THE SUPPLY CHAIN

RENEWED PARTNERSHIP FOR THE USE OF 100% SUSTAINABLE, LOW ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT GERMANIUM IN THE PRODUCTION OF OPTICAL FIBRE

Milan, 27 October 2020 – Prysmian Group, world leader in the energy and telecom cable systems industry, and Umicore, a global materials technology and recycling group, will take part today in the “2020 World Optical Fibre and Cable Virtual Conference” with a joint presentation, to reinforce their partnership on the use of 100% sustainable, low environmental impact germanium for optical fibre production.

Both companies play a key role in the shift towards a low-carbon economy and contribute to the energy transition process. Optical fibre and cable technology will be decisive in this scenario, as they are an essential part of broadband networks for the digitalisation and the development of a decarbonised society and economy.

Today, Prysmian Group and Umicore introduce the next step in their longstanding relationship in the supply of germanium tetrachloride (GeCl₄), one of the main raw materials for the production of optical fibre. Umicore and Prysmian have worked together for many years on recycling solutions, and they are entering now a new level of cooperation aimed at supplying and using 100% sustainable germanium.

“As stated in our Mission, we are committed to developing the best cable and fibre optic technology for the transition to a cleaner and smarter use of energy resources and to supporting the digitalisation and decarbonisation of economies. Sustainability is therefore effectively included in our business and represents a strategic opportunity to be pursued together with our customers and suppliers,” stated Eric Stoltz, Vice President Optical Fibre BU, Prysmian Group.

“At Umicore we are committed to the principles of sustainable supply and we continuously seek opportunities to further reduce the environmental footprint of our activities. Thanks to the 100% sustainable solution developed for Prysmian, optimising and expanding germanium recycling possibilities and capabilities and providing germanium generated as a by-product of base metal production, we will be able to cut our annual CO₂ emissions by 60%, equal to getting approximately 6,800 combustion-engine cars off the road,” explained Pieter Arickx, Commercial Manager, Umicore.

This partnership shows that the journey towards sustainability requires particular efforts in improving the environmental performance, including in our operations and throughout the supply chain, promoting sustainable raw materials sourcing and product innovation, while ensuring respect of human rights and enhancing human resources.

Prysmian Group

Prysmian Group is a world leader in the energy and telecom cable systems industry. With almost 140 years of experience, sales of over €11 billion, about 29,000 employees in over 50 countries and 106 plants, the Group is strongly positioned in high-tech markets and offers the widest possible range of products, services, technologies and know-how. It operates in the businesses of underground and submarine cables and systems for power transmission and distribution, of special cables for applications in many different industries and of medium and low voltage cables for the construction and infrastructure sectors. For the telecommunications industry, the Group manufactures cables and accessories for voice, video and data transmission, offering a comprehensive range of optical fibres, optical and copper cables and connectivity systems. Prysmian is a public company, listed on the Italian Stock Exchange in the FTSE MIB index.

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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 from 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 € 10.0 billion) in the first half of 2020 and currently employs just below 11,000 people.

Umicore Electro-Optic Materials

Umicore Electro-Optic Materials (EOM) is creating material solutions for optical and electronic applications to customers around the world. The hyper-connectivity megatrend is at the center of our new product and services developments. This megatrend is a combination of ubiquitous communication networks, sensors and artificial intelligence and it will create exciting new possibilities and opportunities in our businesses and personal lives.

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