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PRESS RELEASE

Umicore joins task force to reduce environmental concerns of mobile phones

Umicore joins a group of leading mobile phone manufacturers, network operators, suppliers, customers and environmental organizations to prepare an action plan to improve the environmental performance of mobile phones.

This group was brought together as part of a European Commission pilot project looking at how different industries could work with stakeholder groups to reduce the environmental impact of their products throughout their lifecycle. Finnish telecommunications company Nokia will take the lead of this group.

Amongst others, the further development of take-back systems and recycling schemes is an important matter for this task force.

Over the next two years the participants will look at the range of existing recycling schemes operated around the world and identify which one is most successful and why. They will also pilot the use of incentive schemes in a number of different markets around the world to understand how these can be used to improve collection rates.

The most successful schemes and incentives will be identified and shared right across the industry.

Umicore has been invited to share her broad experience in the efficient and environmentally sound recycling of cell phones. Umicore's leadership in the recycling of both handset and the battery part of a cell phone makes her participation in this work group even more significant.

Umicore's business unit Precious Metals Refining in Hoboken (near Antwerp, Belgium) masters a unique innovative technology to recover 17 different metals out of a wide range of complex precious metals bearing materials, e.g. the handset of a cell phone.

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In addition, Umicore Recycling Solutions recovers the metals-contained in the spent rechargeable batteries for reuse in new rechargeable batteries.

These recycling activities are based on a zero waste principle. This means that Umicore is not only focussing on the recovery of the different metals but also takes care of the environment by controlling all toxic elements that are part of a cell phone. For this, she uses recognised Best Available Technology.

Together with other ongoing projects, this initiative fits into Umicore's efforts towards sustainable development and continual improvement of our environmental performance.

PROFILE

Umicore Precious Metals Refining operates as one of the world's largest precious metals recycling facility.

This business unit of Umicore offers eco-efficient recycling and refining services for precious metal bearing materials such as by-products from other non-ferrous industries (e.g. drosses, mattes, speiss, anode slimes), consumer and industrial recyclable products (e.g. electronic scrap, spent auto catalysts, spent industrial catalysts, sweeps & bullions).

We recover and sell precious metals (silver, gold, platinum, palladium, rhodium, iridium, ruthenium), special metals (indium, selenium, tellurium), secondary metals (antimony, tin, bismuth, arsenic) and base metals (lead, copper, nickel).

We put them back in the cycle for a better life.

For more information:

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