

Press release
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Umicore Solar Team unveils new generation Umicar

The Umicore Solar Team unveiled its much awaited third generation Umicar ("Umicar Inspire") on Saturday, a solar car designed to cross 3,000 km of harsh Australian outback in record time, with only the sun, a battery pack and a set of solar cells as its allies.

The Umicore Solar Team won the silver medal during the World Solar Challenge in 2007, the unofficial world championship for solar cars, connecting the north and south of Australia. The Umicore Solar Team will compete with 30 other teams from across the globe in the 2009 edition that will take place in late October.

The race also sends out a strong environmental message, showing a glimpse of what sustainable transport of the future could look like.

The Umicore Solar Team consists of students and recently-graduated engineers from Leuven-based Groep T technical university. The Umicar "Inspire" is equipped with Umicore's germanium substrates, the base material for a set of high-efficiency solar cells, to capture the sunlight and to help complete the five-day race from Darwin to Adelaide. The car weighs 170 kg and has a top speed of 140 km/hour.

For more information

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Umicore profile

Umicore is a materials technology group. Its activities are centred on four business areas: Advanced Materials, Precious Metals Products and Catalysts, Precious Metals Services and Zinc Specialties. Each business area is divided into market-focused business units, be it in products that are essential to everyday life or those at the cutting edge of new technological developments.

Umicore focuses on application areas where it knows its expertise in materials science, chemistry and metallurgy can make a real difference. Umicore generates approximately 50% of its revenues and spends approximately 80% of its R&D budget in the area of clean technology, such as emission control catalysts, materials for rechargeable batteries and photovoltaics, fuel cells, and precious metals recycling. Umicore's overriding goal of sustainable value creation is based on this 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 € 9.2 billion (€ 2.1 billion excluding metal) in 2008 and currently employs some 15,500 people.