

**press release**

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**Title: UMICORE INVESTS WITH RAUTOMEAD TECHNOLOGY**

**Release Date:**

Umicore Copper SA-NV, soon to become CUMERIO SA-NV, a major European producer of refined metal and copper products, has contracted to purchase three new Rautomead RS 3000 copper rod casting machines for installation at its plant in Olen, Belgium.

These machines will be used for the production of oxygen-free copper and alloyed copper rod in diameters from 8mm to 30mm. Cumulative production capacity of the machines will be 18,000 tonnes per year. Feedstock will be the high quality ISA process cathode already produced by Umicore Copper, Olen. The new plant will come on stream later in 2005.

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