

Avenue du Bourget 60 - Bourgetlaan 60  
B-1140 Brussels - Belgium  
T +32 2 745 21 11 - F +32 2 745 20 99

## Press Release

August 23, 2012

### Toyota selects Lithium-ion battery recycling partner in Europe

**Toyota Motor Europe (TME) today announced its intention to partner Belgium-based Umicore N.V. for sustainable recycling of Lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries in Europe.**

Today's announcement comes after an exploratory period for TME to identify and select a European partner to safely and sustainably recycle Li-ion batteries found in two new Toyota models – the recently launched seven-seater Toyota Prius+ and Toyota Prius Plug-in Hybrid, currently being launched in Europe.

Umicore's unique rechargeable battery recycling process uses a patented Ultra High Temperature (UHT) smelting technology. It allows for the recycling of valuable elements such as cobalt, nickel and copper from spent Li-ion batteries in a cost efficient and environmentally sound way. Umicore is also the only company worldwide operating two dedicated hybrid vehicle or full electric vehicle battery pack dismantling lines in Germany and the USA to support the supply of materials to its facility in Hoboken, Belgium.

The two companies are currently in the process of finalising the partnership agreement.

In October last year, TME became one of the first European OEMs to announce a new partnership for the recycling of nickel-metal hydride batteries found in all Toyota and Lexus full hybrid models sold since 2000.

The combination of these partnerships forms the backbone of Toyota's plan to fully support European Commission Battery Directive 2006/66/EC, the legal framework for the take back and treatment of industrial batteries in Europe. As a result, Toyota Motor Europe will be well above the European Commission recycling efficiency target.

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#### Notes to the editors:

##### About Umicore:

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. 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. The Umicore Group has industrial operations on all continents and serves a global customer base; it generated a turnover of € 14.5 billion (€ 2.3 billion excluding metal) in 2011 and currently employs some 14,600 people. For more information, visit [www.batteryrecycling.umicore.com](http://www.batteryrecycling.umicore.com)

##### About Toyota Motor Europe:

Toyota Motor Europe NV/SA (TME) oversees the wholesale sales and marketing of Toyota and Lexus vehicles, parts and accessories, and Toyota's European manufacturing and engineering operations. Toyota directly and indirectly employs around 94,000 people in Europe and has invested over EUR 7 billion since 1990. Toyota's operations in Europe are supported by a network of 30 National Marketing and Sales Companies across 56 countries, a total of around 3,000 sales outlets, and nine manufacturing plants. In 2011, Toyota sold 822,386 Toyota and Lexus vehicles in Europe. For more information, visit [www.toyota.eu](http://www.toyota.eu)

For details on Toyota's vehicle recycling process, visit [http://www.toyota-global.com/sustainability/report/vehicle\\_recycling/](http://www.toyota-global.com/sustainability/report/vehicle_recycling/)

#### For more information, please contact:

##### Toyota Motor Europe

Mr Jean-Yves Jault T +32 2 745 3174 M + 32 478 55 61 55  
Mrs Christina Apostolaki T +32 2 745 2540

[jean.yves.jault@toyota-europe.com](mailto:jean.yves.jault@toyota-europe.com)  
[christina.apostolaki@toyota-europe.com](mailto:christina.apostolaki@toyota-europe.com)

## TOYOTA MOTOR EUROPE NV/SA

Mrs Carol Coolsaet      T +32 2 745 2960  
Mr Alain Taverriti      T +32 2 745 5265  
Mr Danny Chen          T +32 2 745 3257

[carol.coolsaet@toyota-europe.com](mailto:carol.coolsaet@toyota-europe.com)  
[alain.taverriti@toyota-europe.com](mailto:alain.taverriti@toyota-europe.com)  
[danny.chen@toyota-europe.com](mailto:danny.chen@toyota-europe.com)

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