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COMP/M.4829 - UMICORE / NORSK HYDRO / HYCORE JV

SECTION 1.2

Description of the concentration

On 26 July 2007, the Commission received the notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 (the Merger Regulation), by which Umicore (Belgium) and Norsk Hydro (Norway) will establish a full-function joint venture within the meaning of Article 3(4) of the Merger Regulation. The joint venture will be active in the development, production and sale of solar grade silicon.

The business activities of the undertakings concerned are as follows:

Umicore: advanced materials, precious metal products and catalysts, precious metal services and zinc specialties.

Hydro: aluminium, oil, gas, hydropower and alternative energy sources.