

Press release

20th November 2007

SolviCore and Michelin unveil cooperation at Challenge Bibendum in Shanghai

SolviCore and Michelin have teamed up to power the most recent version of the French tire manufacturer's pollution-free, hydrogen-fuelled 'Hy-light' demonstration vehicle. The vehicle features top environmental technologies and its latest model was unveiled at the Challenge Bibendum 2007 (*) in Shanghai (www.challengebibendum.com). Because the 'Hy-light' vehicle is powered by a fuel cell, its only waste emission is water vapour.

SolviCore provides the vehicle's Membrane Electrode Assembly (MEA), which is the 'heart' of the vehicle's fuel cell: the reactor where hydrogen is combined with oxygen to produce electricity.

"We are very excited about this partnership with a very innovative global company such as Michelin. SolviCore is a young company and we hope that we can contribute to designing the energy technologies of the future with our vision. With this public event Michelin certainly demonstrates and promotes that innovative solutions already exist for the benefit of environmentally clean transport. For SolviCore it is the first step into the public after a long time of hard work and we will continue to work hard, so that other steps like this will follow in the future." SolviCore managing director Holger Dziallas said.

"We are convinced of the urgency to propose solutions for a future clean mobility and the fuel cell will contribute for sure to this effort. The work engaged with SolviCore in the domain of MEA aims to achieve high performing, reliable solutions for use in the fuel cells. We plan to do significant progress in combining the know-how of our both companies", Michelin's Pierre Varenne said.

SolviCore is a 50-50 percent joint-venture of Belgian materials-technology company Umicore and Belgian chemicals company Solvay, who respectively enjoy a global leading position in precious metals catalyst and polymer membrane technology. SolviCore started operating in July 2006: it develops and sells Membrane Electrode Assemblies (MEA) to be used in fuel cell applications.

Michelin develops, produces and sells tires of all types all over the world. Michelin since end of 19th century has long been associated with progress in road mobility and Michelin's future is closely linked to the future of mobility.

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(*)Challenge Bibendum, initiated by Michelin in 1998, took place in Shanghai from 14th until 17th November 2007. It is a concerted effort by pre-eminent players in the automotive world to provide insight in the latest technological innovations ranging from the reduction of energy consumption per vehicle to reduction of carbon dioxide emissions or other pollutants. The event includes specific technical tests, combined with a rally.



Michelin Hy-light 2 vehicle at Challenge Bibendum Vehicle Parade in Shanghai Pudong



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Company profile

SolviCore was founded on July 1st, 2006 by its parent companies Umicore and Solvay. The 50-50 joint venture is based in Hanau, at Umicore's main R&D site in Germany. SolviCore currently employs 40 people in research, development, production and sales of membrane electrode assemblies (MEA) and related compounds, to be used in fuel cells (FC) applications.

For further information:

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Media: low-resolution pictures can be downloaded from the SolviCore website: www.solvicore.com

high-resolution print-quality pictures can be requested via: Yesim Brennan
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