

## Essilor wins a Silmo d'Or award for its Eye Protect System™: an innovation in prevention which becomes a new standard in visual health

Essilor has also won an award for MyEye in the Low Vision category.

*(Charenton-le-Pont, France - September 27, 2016)* **Essilor has won an award at the Salon Mondial de l'Optique (the international exhibition for the optics sector, 23 to 26 September) for its Eye Protect System™. This innovative new lens helps protect the eye from harmful light by partially filtering out blue-violet light by absorption while remaining aesthetically clear. Essilor has also been awarded a Silmo d'Or in the Low Vision category for MyEye: Incorporating artificial intelligence, this visual aid for people with low vision is able to read text and recognise people's faces and everyday objects.**

*"Eye Protect System demonstrates our commitment to continuing to provide innovative solutions for the correction, protection and prevention needs of consumers throughout the world – people whose eyes are exposed to UV rays every day, as well as to harmful blue-violet light. Innovation in the field of optics is needed more than ever before, to help ensure people's visual health throughout life"* emphasises Jean Carrier, Chief Operating Officer of the Essilor Group.

The innovative lens enables all consumers to benefit from breakthroughs in prevention thanks to its specific absorption properties. Eye Protect System's various absorbers target harmful blue-violet lights while absorbing the residual yellow tint which emerges when blue light is filtered, thus resulting in a completely aesthetically clear lens.

In order to ensure that visual protection becomes a standard in ophthalmic lenses, Essilor is deploying its Eye Protect System on a very wide selection of its range – both those making up its own brands and those of its networks throughout the world – the aim being to promote access to prevention in visual health. The Eye Protect System innovation now comes as standard on all Essilor Transitions lenses and is deployed on Varilux, Eyezen+ and Crizal.

Blue-violet light has been identified as one of the risk factors in retinal diseases such as ARMD<sup>1</sup>, along with smoking, ageing, genetics, diet... It features mainly in natural light, but is also emitted by the digital screens to which the eyes of both adults and children are exposed on a frequent basis and for prolonged periods of time.

Eye Protect system also blocks the transmission of UV rays that, over time, can accelerate the eye's ageing and can lead to the early appearance of cataracts<sup>2</sup>. Every year, 5 million people lose their sight because of cataracts<sup>2</sup>. And children's eyes are more vulnerable than adults' to the harmful effects of the sun because their crystalline lenses are not yet mature and are not yet able to block them out.

### **MyEye, a solution for the 140 million visually-impaired people throughout the world**

MyEye is a device for enhancing the lives of people with visual impairment – people whose visual needs can no longer be addressed by corrective lenses. Incorporating artificial intelligence, MyEye integrates a miniature camera and an earphone into the temple of a pair of glasses and reads text that it sees into the user's ear. It can recognise everyday products, read totals on tickets and give the names of people that it recognises. For both indoor and outdoor use, the MyEye device is light, discreet and easy to use. It can store up to 100 faces and 150 consumer goods.

This innovation, developed by start-up OrCam and distributed in France by Essilor, is designed to improve the autonomy of visually-impaired people. Today, 140 million people throughout the world suffer from visual impairment – mainly ARMD or glaucoma.

The Essilor Group strives to understand people's needs and their changing behaviour, and in line with its mission to improve lives by improving sight, invests €200 million in Research and Innovation every year. Every day, the Group's 550 researchers throughout the world research and develop innovative solutions.

In September, Essilor was ranked by Forbes magazine for the sixth year running as one of the world's most innovative companies. It is a pioneer when it comes to major innovations in the field of ophthalmic optics, such as progressive lenses, organic lenses and organic photochromic lenses.

***The Silmo is one of the world's largest shows for professionals in the optics and eyeglass trade. The Silmo d'Or innovation awards are given in recognition of the profession's intrinsic values: innovation, technological advances and creativity.***

*1 Age-related macular degeneration.*

*Sunlight and the 10-year incidence of age-related maculopathy: The Beaver Dam Eye Study. Arch. Ophthalmol., 122, 750-757*

*New discoveries and therapies in retinal phototoxicity, Serge Picaud and Emilie Arnault, Points de Vue, No.68, Spring 2013.*

*2. McCarthy CA, Taylor HR. A review of the epidemiological evidence, linking UV radiation and cataracts. Dev Ophthalmol. 2002; 35: 21-31.*

*Eye Protect System™, Varilux®, Eyezen™ + and Crizal® are trademarks of Essilor International. Transitions® is a trademark of Transitions Optical, Inc.*

#### **About Essilor**

*The world's leading ophthalmic optics company, Essilor designs, manufactures and markets a wide range of lenses to improve and protect eyesight. Its mission is to improve lives by improving sight. To support this mission, Essilor allocates more than €200 million to research and innovation every year, in a commitment to continuously bring new, more effective products to market. Its flagship brands are Varilux®, Crizal®, Transitions®, Eyezen™, Xperio®, Foster Grant®, Bolon™ and Costa®. It also develops and markets equipment, instruments and services for eyecare professionals.*

*Essilor reported consolidated revenue of more than €6.7 billion in 2015 and employs 61,000 people worldwide. It markets its products in more than 100 countries and has 32 plants, 490 prescription laboratories and edging facilities, as well as five research and development centers around the world. For more information, please visit [www.essilor.com](http://www.essilor.com).*

*The Essilor share trades on the Euronext Paris market and is included in the Euro Stoxx 50 and CAC 40 indices.*

*Codes and symbols: ISIN: FR0000121667; Reuters: ESSI.PA; Bloomberg: EI:FP*

## **CONTACTS**

### **Investor Relations**

Véronique Gillet / Sébastien Leroy

Ariel Bauer

Tel.: +33 (0)1 49 77 42 16

### **Corporate Communications**

Lucia Dumas

Tel.: +33 (0)1 49 77 45 02

### **Media Relations**

Mailis Thiercelin

Tel.: +33 (0)1 49 77 45 02