



News Release

## **Luxottica and Essilor form a joint-venture for the Australian and New Zealand markets**

Milan, Italy and Charenton-le-Pont, France (February 8, 2010 – 8.30 a.m.) – **Luxottica Group (MTA: LUX; NYSE: LUX)**, a leader in the design, manufacturing and distribution of premium fashion, luxury and sports eyewear, and **Essilor International (NYSE Euronext: EI)**, the world leader in ophthalmic lenses, announced today that the two companies have formed a long-term joint-venture for the Australian and New-Zealand markets.

Under the terms of the agreement, the joint-venture will manage Eyebiz Pty Limited, Luxottica's Sydney-based optical lens finishing laboratory, which, as a result of this alliance, will be majority-controlled by Essilor.

Eyebiz will continue to supply all of Luxottica's retail optical outlets in Australia and New Zealand: OPSM, Budget Eyewear and Laubman & Pank.

The Eyebiz management team will remain in place and report to the new Board comprised of Essilor International and Luxottica representatives.

### **About Luxottica Group**

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*Luxottica Group is a leader in premium fashion, luxury and sports eyewear, with over 6,200 optical and sun retail stores in North America, Asia-Pacific, China, South Africa and Europe and a strong and well balanced brand portfolio. Luxottica's key house brands include Ray-Ban, the best known sun eyewear brand in the world, Oakley, Vogue, Persol, Oliver Peoples, Arnette and REVO, while license brands include Bvlgari, Burberry, Chanel, Dolce & Gabbana, Donna Karan, Polo Ralph Lauren, Prada, Salvatore Ferragamo, Tiffany and Versace. In addition to a global wholesale network covering 130 countries, the Group manages leading retail brands such as LensCrafters and Pearle Vision in North America, OPSM and Laubman & Pank in Australasia, LensCrafters in Greater China and Sunglass Hut globally. The Group's products are designed and manufactured in six Italy-based manufacturing plants, two wholly-owned plants in China and a sports sunglass production facility in the U.S. In 2009, Luxottica Group posted consolidated net sales of €5.1 billion. Additional information on the Group is available at [www.luxottica.com](http://www.luxottica.com).*

### **About Essilor**

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*Essilor International is the world leader in ophthalmic optical products, offering a wide range of lenses under the flagship Varilux<sup>®</sup>, Crizal<sup>®</sup>, Essilor<sup>®</sup>, Definity<sup>®</sup> and Xperio<sup>™</sup> brands to correct myopia, hyperopia, astigmatism and presbyopia. Essilor operates worldwide through a broad network of mass-production facilities, lens finishing laboratories and local distribution subsidiaries. The Essilor share trades on the Euronext Paris market and is included in the CAC 40 index. Codes and symbols: ISIN: FR 0000121667; Reuters: ESSI.PA; Bloomberg: EI:FP.*

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### **Essilor investor relations and financial communications**

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